1	BEFORE THE		
2	ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION		
	IN THE MATTER OF:		
3	MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH )		
4	)		
5	vs. ) No. 03-0124		
6	PEOPLES GAS, LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY )		
O	Complaint as to estimated back )		
7	billing in Chicago, Illinois.		
8	Chicago, Illinois		
9	January 13th, 2005		
10	Met pursuant to notice at 10:00 a.m.		
10	BEFORE:		
11	MR. GLENNON P. DOLAN		
12	Administrative Law Judge		
13	APPEARANCES:		
14	LAW OFFICES OF AMOS SMITH, by		
TI	MR. AMOS SMITH		
15	120 West Madison Street, Suite 1104 Chicago, Illinois 60602		
16	appearing on behalf of Mount Pisgah Missionary		
17	Baptist Church;		
	McGUIREWOODS, LLP, by		
18	MS. JAIME L. HOCHHAUSEN MS. GRETA G. WEATHERSBY		
19	77 West Wacker Drive, Suite 4100		
20	Chicago, Illinois 60601 appearing on behalf of Peoples Gas, Light and		
21	Coke Company.		
41	SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by		
22	Jennel Hooper-Troupe, RPR, CSR		

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- 1 JUDGE DOLAN: By the power and authority of the
- 2 Illinois Commerce Commission, I call Case No. 03-0124
- 3 to order, a complaint to -- of estimated back billing
- 4 against Peoples Gas to order.
- 5 Would the parties please identify
- 6 themselves for the record.
- 7 MR. SMITH: For the record, Amos Smith, the
- 8 attorney for Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church,
- 9 the complainant.
- 10 MS. WEATHERSBY: Greta Weathersby, one of the
- 11 attorneys for Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Jaime Hochhausen, one of the
- 13 attorneys for Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. Why don't you give
- 15 your -- you guys should just give your full addresses
- and everything on the record.
- 17 MR. SMITH: I'm sorry.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: 77 West Wacker Drive, Chicago,
- 19 Illinois.
- JUDGE DOLAN: You don't want to identify the
- 21 law firm?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: McGuireWoods.

- 1 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay.
- 2 MR. SMITH: And, again, this is Amos Smith.
- 3 I'm an attorney at law. Address is 120 West Madison,
- 4 Suite 1104, Chicago 60602.
- 5 JUDGE DOLAN: The -- let the record reflect
- 6 that there are no other appearances for the record.
- 7 Mr. Smith, are -- I guess -- let's take
- 8 care of the preliminary matters before we proceed
- 9 with the hearing.
- 10 So, are there any preliminary matters at
- 11 this point?
- 12 MR. SMITH: I'm just going to ask just for the
- interest of time and to get through this, would
- 14 Peoples Gas have any objection to not having a
- 15 foundation laid for the bills? They speak for
- 16 themselves.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Well, to the extent it's a
- 18 record that we have provided to you and it's clear
- 19 that it's that same record, yes, but I have to take a
- 20 look. I've seen some funny things with bills. I'm
- 21 sorry. I can't just accept a record. If you give me
- 22 a stack -- I mean, we should have maybe taken a quick

- look at this. If we know it's a stack --
- 2 MR. SMITH: Yeah. I provided this stack to
- 3 Brett Beattie August 2nd, 2004.
- 4 MS. WEATHERSBY: So, they're our records
- 5 that --
- 6 MR. SMITH: Yeah.
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: -- we produced to you -- then
- 8 I would have no objection.
- 9 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 10 JUDGE DOLAN: All right. With that, that's
- 11 fine.
- 12 Any other preliminary matters?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Well, I wanted to re-object to
- 14 the filing of this first amended complaint and any
- introduction of the April 23rd, 2003 bill as being in
- 16 dispute.
- JUDGE DOLAN: For the record, a discussion did
- 18 take place concerning the amended complaint. And I
- 19 had indicated to Mr. Smith, counsel for the
- 20 complainant, that I did feel that Exhibit 4, the bill
- 21 dated April 23rd, 2003, should not be properly
- 22 presented in this matter.

- 1 So, with that we'll strike Exhibit No. 4
- 2 and any information concerning that -- well, I won't
- 3 say any information concerning that because he
- 4 indicated he may use it for other purposes. But as
- 5 far as something that I'm going to rule about, the
- 6 issue of -- or a dispute over this bill will be
- 7 stricken.
- 8 And with that, Mr. Smith, are you ready
- 9 to call your first witness?
- MR. SMITH: Yes.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Sir, would you come on up here.
- 12 Would you please state your name for the record.
- 13 THE WITNESS: My name is Lawrence Holt.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. Mr. Holt, would you please
- 15 raise your right hand.
- 16 (Witness sworn.)
- 17 LAWRENCE HOLT,
- 18 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 19 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 21 BY
- MR. SMITH:

- 1 Q Lawrence Holt, that's your name, right,
- 2 please?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Okay. Mr. Holt, whose your employer?
- 5 A Reiter Heating.
- 6 Q Reiter Heating. And what do you do with
- 7 Reiter Heating?
- 8 A I install boilers, furnaces and steam
- 9 boilers. I do all heating work there, yes.
- 10 Q Okay. And approximately how long have you
- 11 been doing that sort of work?
- 12 A About roughly 20 years.
- Q Roughly 20 years?
- 14 A 20 years.
- Q Okay.
- 16 JUDGE DOLAN: Before you proceed, have you ever
- 17 testified before, sir?
- 18 THE WITNESS: It would be a long time ago, once
- 19 before.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Well, just so you know, the court
- 21 reporter is taking down everything that's stated.
- 22 So, you can't nod your head for a yes. You can't,

- 1 you know, shake your head for a no. You have to
- 2 give -- no uh-uhs, no uh-huhs. You have to give an
- 3 answer that the court reporter can actually record,
- 4 okay?
- 5 THE WITNESS: All right.
- 6 JUDGE DOLAN: Thank you.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 8 BY MR. SMITH:
- 9 Q And you say you've been in your profession
- 10 for about 20 years?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Okay. Would you consider yourself a -- an
- 13 expert in what you do?
- 14 A Yes, I would.
- 15 Q Okay. Are you familiar with the church
- 16 called Mt. Pisgah located at 4600 South King Drive,
- 17 Chicago, Illinois?
- 18 A Yes, I am.
- 19 Q Okay. Have you been to that church?
- 20 A Yes, I have.
- Q Okay. Have you been to where the boilers
- 22 are located in that church?

- 1 A Yes, I have.
- 2 Q Can you describe that area for me.
- 3 A Yes, I can. It's a 30 foot, roughly, by 50
- 4 foot room with two steam boilers. It's got a very
- 5 high ceiling. It's probably 35 feet high, has a
- 6 fresh air intake on it because that's required for
- 7 the amount of gas that is burned there by the two
- 8 boilers.
- 9 Q Okay. How would you describe the
- 10 ventilation in that room?
- 11 A Ventilation is good, very good, because
- 12 it's required to have ventilation because of the two
- 13 steam boilers, where they're located at.
- 14 O Okay. Were you ever aware of any leaks or
- 15 problems in that room?
- 16 A Yes. There was a gas leak there in the
- 17 main that's coming in. It's about roughly 25 feet,
- 18 35 feet away from the boiler.
- 19 Q Okay. Do you know when that gas leak was?
- 20 A I'd say -- the last time I was there when I
- 21 told them, maybe a year and a half.
- Q Roughly a year and a half ago. So, if this

- 1 is January here right, will you say maybe -- this is
- 2 January 2005. Would you say approximately a year and
- 3 a half from there it would be?
- 4 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. Counsel is leading
- 5 the witness and providing dates and testimony for the
- 6 witness.
- 7 JUDGE DOLAN: Sustained.
- 8 BY THE WITNESS:
- 9 A Well, I would say -- I would correct
- 10 myself. I would say it's around October of 2003, I
- 11 believe.
- 12 Q Around October 2003?
- 13 A Right.
- 14 Q Okay. And what type of leak was that?
- 15 A It was gas.
- 17 A Right.
- 18 Q How did you discover that?
- 19 A Well, when I come down to bring the tools
- in, you have to walk past it and go down a flight of
- 21 stairs and then you get to the boilers. You walk
- 22 across. And every time you would come in and walk

- 1 across you would smell it.
- Q Oh, you could smell it?
- 3 A You could smell it.
- 4 Q Okay.
- 5 A And when the boilers are running, it's
- 6 pulling more gas and you could smell it.
- 7 Q Okay. Let me ask you this: Based on your
- 8 expertise, if -- strike that.
- 9 Do you know where the meter is located
- 10 in that room?
- 11 A Yes. Well, they needed a gas pump because
- the two boilers require a pump to pump the gas to
- 13 feed both of those 1,000,000 -- 200,000 BTU boilers
- 14 to provide it with enough gas pressure to run them.
- 15 Q Okay. So, where is the meter located?
- 16 A It's roughly about 25 feet away from the
- 17 boilers.
- 18 Q Okay. So, would -- based on your
- 19 expertise, would you say that if an actual reading --
- 20 (Witnesses cellular phone
- 21 ringing.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: Off the record for a second.

- 1 (Discussion off the record.)
- 2 BY MR. SMITH:
- 3 Q Based upon your expertise, if that meter
- 4 was read by a professional with an actual reading, do
- 5 you think the person would have smelled?
- 6 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Objection. He's not an expert
- 7 on meter reading.
- 8 JUDGE DOLAN: I'll have to sustain that.
- 9 You'll have to rephrase your question.
- 10 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- 11 BY MR. SMITH:
- 12 Q Is it -- was it pretty obvious to smell the
- 13 qas?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Okay. What kind of problems -- can a gas
- 16 leak -- based -- based on your knowledge and
- 17 experience, could a gas leak affect what the meter
- 18 says?
- 19 A Yes, it could. If it's after the meter.
- 20 If it's -- if the gas is coming through the meter and
- 21 then they have the leak, it's leaking out. It's
- 22 still registering it and it's not being used.

- 1 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Objection. Again, he's not a
- 2 meter reader. He doesn't have expertise on meters.
- 3 JUDGE DOLAN: But he's not testifying about the
- 4 meter, Counsel.
- 5 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Well, he's testifying as to
- 6 how a gas leak would affect -- affect the meter, how
- 7 much gas the meter is reading.
- 8 JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to allow it just for
- 9 this purpose.
- 10 BY MR. SMITH:
- 11 Q I mean, was enough gas -- I mean, why
- wasn't there an explosion if gas is leaking?
- 13 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. Counsel, you
- 14 haven't even -- there's been no testimony relative to
- 15 the amount of gas and you're asking him to jump
- 16 forward to an explosion. So, objection.
- 17 Speculation.
- 18 JUDGE DOLAN: Sustained.
- 19 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 20 BY MR. SMITH:
- 21 Q Would you --
- JUDGE DOLAN: Don't answer.

- 1 MR. SMITH: Don't answer.
- THE WITNESS: (Nodding.)
- 3 BY MR. SMITH:
- 4 Q Could you estimate how much gas was leaking
- 5 when you were there?
- 6 A An estimate? Every time it would -- the
- 7 boiler would come on because it has a pump to pump
- 8 the pressure. You could smell the gas stronger when
- 9 the steamers were on -- if both steam boilers were on
- 10 running than you would if they were off, like on
- 11 weekends. You know, if they'd shut the boiler down,
- 12 you know, you don't smell is so bad. When they run
- 13 it, that's when you would smell it because is has a
- 14 pump to build the pressure --
- Q Okay.
- 16 A -- on it, otherwise, it would never build
- 17 them up, they wouldn't work.
- 18 Q Okay. Is it normal to smell gas when the
- 19 boiler is running?
- 20 A You would smell it at the steamers when
- 21 they first start up because it's got spark ignition
- 22 and it has to light it. So, you would smell it very

- 1 slightly, then it goes away because then it's burning
- 2 up all the gas.
- O Uh-huh.
- 4 A That's the way they're designed. But
- 5 you're not supposed to smell it, you know, 25 feet
- 6 away at the meter where it comes in -- the pump that
- 7 they put on there.
- 8 Q Okay. Could you -- were you able to
- 9 determine what source the gas leak was coming from?
- 10 A Did I determine?
- 11 Q Yes.
- 12 A Yes. When I was smelling it a lot, I went
- over by the meter where they got the pump and you
- 14 could smell it right there. You could smell it.
- 15 O By the pump?
- 16 A Yeah.
- 17 Q Okay. And was the -- is the pump usually
- installed by the person who put the boiler in or some
- 19 other third party?
- 20 A That's usually put in by the gas company.
- Q By the gas company?
- 22 A Right. They have to judge what's there and

- 1 they give you the pump that's going to work what you
- 2 have.
- 3 Q Okay. So, if there's a problem with this
- 4 pump, would you expect the gas company to repair it?
- 5 A Yes, you would. Yes, you would.
- 6 Q Is it possible for this leak to have
- 7 occurred for a long period of time?
- 8 A Sure. Sure it is.
- 9 Q Could it occur for over a year and not
- 10 cause any major --
- 11 A Sure.
- 12 Q -- problems?
- 13 A Sure.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection.
- 15 BY THE WITNESS:
- 16 A Because --
- 17 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection --
- 18 JUDGE DOLAN: Hold on, Counsel.
- 19 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection, your Honor. He's
- 20 calling the witness to speculate regarding major
- 21 problems. We don't know what the problems are and he
- 22 said yes and it's still unclear what he's talking

- 1 about. So, it's objection. Speculation.
- 2 JUDGE DOLAN: I will sustain that one.
- 3 BY MR. SMITH:
- 4 Q Will you restate to me what you believe
- 5 caused -- what was leaking.
- 6 A Well, it's a pump. Well, when I was there
- 7 when I was putting their first steamer -- steam
- 8 boiler, it was a red pump. You know, it's
- 9 about -- since I've been there, they changed that and
- 10 they put a gray one in there and they made it bigger.
- 11 But the first one that was originally there was red
- 12 and they were supposed to take care of a problem
- 13 there, which -- well, to my understanding. And now
- 14 it's fixed. You know, they got a different pump on
- 15 there now. So, I don't know when they changed it or
- 16 how they change it or --
- 17 Q You said a red pump versus a gray pump?
- 18 A Right.
- 19 O What's --
- 20 A The red one it was a little smaller. And
- 21 it's when the gas comes, it goes through it, you
- 22 know, so they could read it. So, now they got a

- 1 bigger one on there. It's a little bigger. It's
- 2 gray and it's different than the other one that was
- 3 originally on it.
- 4 Q Would you tell me how large in measurements
- 5 the red pump is and how large was the gray pump?
- 6 A The red ones a few inches smaller than the
- 7 one they have on there now, circumference and
- 8 diameter, I would say. But you don't smell no gas
- 9 leaking from the new one.
- 10 Q And how recently have you been there?
- 11 A Roughly about a month and a half ago. I
- don't know how long that's been there. But that's my
- 13 last time I was there I noticed things were changed.
- 14 O In your business who usually makes you
- 15 aware of a gas leak?
- 16 A Usually the owner does.
- 17 O The owner does?
- 18 A The owner or anybody else that says they
- 19 might smell gas here. I'll go check it out for them
- 20 and see where I would think it would be coming from
- 21 or it is coming from. You know, you have a tester
- 22 that can test. You go around it and you can tell

- 1 when it's leaking if it reads a certain amount of
- 2 BPMs on there.
- 3 Q Okay. So, the gas you smelled at Mt.
- 4 Pisgah could not have been discovered by a layperson
- 5 or smelled by a layperson?
- 6 A Yeah. Could be, yes.
- 7 MR. SMITH: No further questions at this time.
- 8 No further questions.
- 9 JUDGE DOLAN: Cross-examination?
- 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 11 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 13 Q How many times have you visited the church?
- 14 A Quit a few times. Like I said, I put the
- one boiler in there and I don't know -- I don't know
- 16 how many times I've been there, but since the
- 17 Reverend Jackson has been there -- you know, I had
- 18 pointed things out to him because he's the one who
- 19 took the church over -- just to keep the record
- 20 straight here -- and I noticed a lot of things for
- 21 him, okay, the gas leaks and certain things like that
- 22 when I changed the steam boiler. All right. And

- 1 I -- he knew it and I made it aware to him because I
- 2 don't know how many --
- 4 A Oh, yes. I've been there a lot more than
- 5 five times. I was there three weeks straight several
- 6 different times.
- 7 Q And did you visit the church any time
- 8 between, let's say, October 2001 to October 2002?
- 9 A That time, no.
- 10 Q And when you visited the church, you said
- 11 you smelled gas on one occasion?
- 12 A That's every occasion I was there.
- 13 Q And wouldn't you agree that if there was a
- 14 gas leak, it's standard procedure for you to call the
- 15 gas company?
- 16 A Well, if he's the owner, he called them. I
- 17 would just let him do that. He was aware of it.
- 18 Q Did you do any repair work on those
- 19 occasions?
- 20 A No, not on what is the gas companies. No.
- 21 Q Did you do any repair work on the boiler?
- 22 A Well, I changed the boiler.

- 1 Q Prior to changing the boiler, did you do
- 2 any repair work on any other boilers that were on the
- 3 premises?
- 4 A Well, just flushing them down, clean them
- 5 out, make sure everything's working.
- 6 Q Did you do any work on any of the natural
- 7 gas piping in the building?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q And did the church pay you for your work?
- 10 A They pay the company, yes.
- 11 Q Do you have copies of those invoices?
- 12 A No, I don't. The company would.
- 13 Q Okay. And are you being paid to come here
- 14 today?
- 15 A Today? They said they'd make up for my
- 16 time, but no, not really.
- 17 Q You don't know the exact type of appliance
- that was present on October 25th, 2002; correct?
- 19 A Exact type of appliance, no.
- 21 was present?
- 22 A Peerless 211.

- 1 Q And when you -- you said you could smell
- 2 gas?
- 3 A Uh-huh.
- 4 Q Could a Peoples Gas employee smell -- would
- 5 a Peoples Gas employee be able to smell the gas if
- 6 they came?
- 7 A Well, yes. If they came down there, they
- 8 would smell it. Yes.
- 9 Q And you could -- you said you could smell
- it when you were walking down the stairwell?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q You'd agree that other people have probably
- gone down the stairwell prior to you?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q And they would have smelled the gas as
- 16 well; correct?
- 17 MR. SMITH: Objection, your Honor. That's
- 18 outside of the scope.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: He said that anyone would be
- 20 able to smell it.
- 21 JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to allow it.

22

- 1 BY THE WITNESS:
- 2 A Yes, other people could smell it. I
- 3 have -- for the record, I have never seen a Peoples
- 4 Energy person even come down there to check it at
- 5 all.
- 6 Q Okay. That wasn't my question. So,
- 7 you -- you work on specifically boilers; correct?
- 8 A Boilers.
- 9 Q You have no knowledge of pumps?
- 10 A Pumps and stuff, no.
- 11 Q So, you're not an expert on pumps?
- 12 A Not an expert on pumps. But when you smell
- 13 gas, you notice a problem.
- 14 Q But you have no knowledge of pumps --
- 15 A No.
- 17 A Not a pump expert.
- 18 Q Okay. Could you describe the gray or
- 19 the -- I believe you said there was a red pump
- 20 originally. Could you describe the pump for me?
- 21 A Describe it for you? It's round, round
- 22 flanges are on it, gas comes in, the other main comes

- 1 out and feed the boilers.
- 2 Q And where is that pump in relation to the
- 3 boilers?
- A About 20 to 25 feet away.
- 5 Q And how far away is it from the meter?
- 6 A I believe that was the meter -- meter pump.
- 7 The other meter, I don't know exactly where that
- 8 would be at. You would have to be at the church, I
- 9 guess, to explain that.
- 10 Q Could you clarify. Do you believe or do
- 11 you know for sure?
- 12 A For what?
- 13 Q That the pump is --
- 14 A Is what was leaking?
- 15 O No. That it was near -- how -- that it was
- 16 25 feet away from the boiler?
- 17 A Yeah, I could verify that.
- 18 Q And that -- can you also verify that it was
- 19 attached to the meter, it was the meter -- the pump?
- 20 A Yeah. It's attached to the meter.
- 21 Q Now, you didn't investigate into the leak;
- 22 did you?

- 1 MR. SMITH: Objection, your Honor. That's
- 2 ambiguous. Can she restate the question, please.
- JUDGE DOLAN: I'll sustain that objection.
- 4 Just rephrase your question, Counsel.
- 5 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 6 Q You did not actually -- you didn't actually
- 7 test the pump; did you?
- 8 A No, it's --
- 9 Q And you --
- 10 A The boilers are running. It's --
- 11 Q Right. And you did not have -- you never
- 12 ever tested the amount of gas that was actually
- 13 leaking?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q And during this time that you said you've
- 16 gone there on -- at least five times and you smelled
- 17 gas each time?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Not once did you ever call Peoples Gas; did
- 20 you?
- 21 A No. I let the reverend know. That was his
- 22 job.

- 1 Q And every time that you went to the church
- 2 to check on the boilers, it was after
- 3 October 25, 2002; correct?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Now this leak, it was downstream of the
- 6 meter; correct, meaning after the meter -- between
- 7 the boiler and the meter?
- 8 A Between the boiler -- yeah -- well,
- 9 it's -- I believe it could be before the meter or
- 10 after, one of the two. I think it's before the
- 11 meter.
- 12 Q You don't know; do you?
- 13 MR. SMITH: Objection, your Honor. The
- 14 question is vague. He doesn't understand the
- 15 question, your Honor.
- 16 THE WITNESS:
- 17 A I think it was.
- 18 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I think it's pretty clear --
- 19 BY THE WITNESS:
- 20 A I believe it was --
- JUDGE DOLAN: Hold on, sir. Can you read the
- 22 question back, please.

- 1 (Record read as requested.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to overrule the
- 3 objection. Go ahead and answer, sir.
- 4 BY THE WITNESS:
- 5 A I believe it was before the meter. That's
- 6 what I believe.
- 7 Q Previously you just said that you thought
- 8 it was after the meter; correct?
- 9 A Right, but see --
- 10 Q And then you said you didn't know?
- 11 A The meter --
- 12 Q So, you don't know?
- 13 JUDGE DOLAN: Give him an opportunity to
- 14 explain.
- 15 BY THE WITNESS:
- 16 A I can explain. All right. They put a
- 17 meter in there. And they put the pump in. Now, the
- 18 gas comes from that pump that they put in -- you
- 19 know, from the meter pipe to this pump, then the gas
- 20 pipe comes out and feeds everything. So, this whole
- 21 area here of that is what they do. They make sure --
- 22 Q It wasn't clear to me -- this whole area of

- 1 that?
- 2 A Well, where the pump is at, that's where
- 3 the gas pump goes to the meter. That's what they put
- 4 in. You know, they got to calculate the amount of
- 5 gas they're going to need to run the boilers.
- 6 Q You said you believe the pump was a part of
- 7 the meter, though?
- 8 A Yes, it is.
- 9 Q So, it would be at the meter?
- 10 A Right.
- 11 Q Or after?
- 12 A Right.
- Q Okay.
- 14 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions -- well,
- 15 hang on.
- 16 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 17 Q So, the pump, is it at the meter or after
- 18 the meter, I'm unclear because it's actually two
- 19 different things?
- 20 MR. SMITH: Objection. Asked and answered,
- 21 your Honor.

22

- 1 BY THE WITNESS:
- 2 A It's, I believe --
- JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to -- I'm going to
- 4 overrule just because I'm not sure either. So,
- 5 let's -- I want to get it clarified myself.
- 6 MR. SMITH: If you can ask her to rephrase the
- 7 question because I'm confused by the question, too,
- 8 your Honor.
- 9 JUDGE DOLAN: If you could just clarify your
- 10 question, Counsel.
- 11 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Okay.
- 12 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 13 Q The pump -- where is the pump located?
- 14 A It's in the boiler room.
- 15 O It is -- where is it located?
- A According to the meter?
- 17 O Yes.
- 18 A I think the meter's in the front or on the
- 19 side and on it -- and the gas is piped to this pump
- 20 so it could pull it and then go in. And that's
- 21 their -- that's the gas company's job to hook that up
- 22 to make it pump all the gas that the building needs.

- 1 Q Okay. I'm still unclear where is the pump?
- 2 A The pump's in the boiler room. The meter,
- 3 I believe, is outside.
- 4 Q Okay. The --
- 5 MS. WEATHERSBY: If I could ask a question on
- 6 this, maybe I might be able to clarify the location
- 7 because this is a circular things that's occurring.
- 8 MR. SMITH: I think it's been asked and
- 9 answered 20 different -- I mean, several different
- 10 times.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Well, Counsel, I -- to be honest
- 12 with you, I -- I think he's -- just looking at my
- 13 notes, I'm not a hundred percent sure where it's at
- 14 either. So, if we could get this clarified --
- MS. SMITH: Maybe she can restate the question
- 16 so he can --
- 17 MS. WEATHERSBY: I can. I can ask the
- 18 question. No problem. Jaime, if I may, just on this
- 19 issue.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: That's fine.

21

22

- 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 2 BY
- 3 MS. WEATHERSBY:
- 4 O Mr. Holt?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Greta Weathersby. Let's clarify now.
- 7 You've indicated that you saw a red pump at the meter
- 8 and this was some time period after October 2002;
- 9 correct?
- 10 A Right.
- 11 Q Now, the question is: Where was the pump
- in relation to the meter? If the meter -- if the
- 13 meter is at A, is the pump at B, C or D? Or is the
- 14 pump before A? That's the question.
- 15 A Oh, okay. The pump is after the meter.
- 16 Q The pump is at B, C or D; correct?
- 17 A Right.
- 18 O Now, let's talk about the boiler. If the
- meter is at A and the pump is at B, C or D, where is
- the boiler? Is it downstream in the alphabet?
- 21 A Right, it's after.
- Q Okay. So, we've got the meter is A --

- 1 A Right.
- 3 meter -- B, C or D --
- 4 A Right.
- 5 Q -- and the boiler is F or G?
- 6 A Right.
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: Thank you.
- 8 JUDGE DOLAN: Any more questions?
- 9 MS. WEATHERSBY: No further questions for this
- 10 witness, your Honor.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Any redirect?
- 12 MR. SMITH: Just a few.
- 13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 14 BY
- MR. SMITH:
- 16 Q Whose job is it to work on the meter or
- work on the pump you just described?
- 18 A The gas company.
- 19 Q Okay. So that would -- so that's not
- 20 something that you or any other licensed professional
- 21 like you would deal with; right?
- 22 A No.

- 1 Q Okay. And if you discover a problem -- if
- 2 you discover a problem, you would suggest to your
- 3 client to contact Peoples Gas or -- regarding that
- 4 matter?
- 5 A Correct.
- 6 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Any recross?
- MS. WEATHERSBY: One moment, your Honor.
- 9 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Okay. I have one question,
- 10 your Honor.
- 11 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 12 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 14 Q Today you've not provided any records of
- 15 any of the visits that you have made to Mt. Pisgah;
- 16 have you?
- 17 A No, I have not.
- 18 Q So, this is all -- well, let me follow up.
- 19 So, this is all based on your memory; correct?
- 20 A Memory. And I believe the reverend would
- 21 have that information.
- 22 Q Okay.

- 1 JUDGE DOLAN: Any further questions?
- 2 MR. SMITH: No.
- JUDGE DOLAN: All right, sir. Thank you. You
- 4 may be excused. I want to take a short recess real
- 5 quick because I forgot to get a legal pad. I want to
- 6 have something to write notes on.
- 7 (Recess taken.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: Are we ready for the next
- 9 witness?
- MR. SMITH: Yep.
- 11 MS. WEATHERSBY: Can we have the nature of the
- 12 this witness so I can have the appropriate Peoples
- 13 Gas person come in?
- 14 MR. SMITH: Sure. Helen -- Helen Walker. She
- 15 is the church secretary and administrator. She
- 16 handles all bills, invoices, she pays them, handles
- 17 all the communication and she's the one that provided
- 18 all the documents to me.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Okay. Well, I'll have Brian
- 20 Schmoldt come in. He's our billing expert.
- JUDGE DOLAN: That's fine. Ma'am, I'd like you
- to take a seat up here, please. Ma'am, will you

- 1 raise your right hand -- or I'm sorry. Please
- 2 identify yourself for the record.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Helen walker.
- 4 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. Now, please raise your
- 5 right hand.
- 6 (Witness sworn.)
- 7 JUDGE DOLAN: Go ahead and proceed, Counsel.
- 8 MR. SMITH: Okay. I have documents that Helen
- 9 Walker provided to me and I want to walk her through
- 10 some of those documents. And in the interest of
- 11 time -- I did provide a copy to your office before.
- 12 If you want me to lay a foundation, I'll just lay a
- 13 quick foundation; otherwise, we can just stipulate to
- 14 these documents and I can just get through what I
- 15 need to get through.
- 16 MS. WEATHERSBY: If you provided those to us,
- 17 I'm sure it's not a problem.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Can I just look at them real
- 19 quickly.
- 20 MR. SMITH: I have an extra copy for you to
- 21 take a look at.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Why don't you lay a foundation

- 1 for her before you present her with the documents,
- 2 just for the record.
- 3 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: That's fine.
- 4 MR. SMITH: That's fine. Okay.
- 5 HELEN WALKER,
- 6 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 7 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 9 BY
- 10 MR. SMITH:
- 11 Q Please state your name for the record.
- 12 A Helen Walker.
- 13 Q Helen Walker? And who is your employer?
- 14 A Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church.
- 15 Q And what is your job description there?
- 16 A Secretary.
- 17 Q Secretary?
- 18 A Uh-huh.
- 19 O And what are some of duties of the
- 20 secretary?
- 21 A Filing, answering phones, paying the bills.
- 22 Q Can you speak a little bit louder, please.

- 1 A Mail, filing, answering phones, paying
- 2 bills, you know, doing the mail. I keep records.
- 3 Just about everything that go (sic) through that
- 4 office, I probably have something to do with it.
- 5 Q Okay. Do you recall providing me a -- a
- 6 stack of documents relating to your Peoples Gas file?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Okay. I'm going to show you this document.
- 9 Have you -- it's a stack of document (sic) numbered 1
- 10 through 62?
- 11 A Okay.
- 12 Q Just take a second to see if you recognize
- 13 those documents. Make sure they have not been
- 14 altered or changed in any way.
- 15 A That's my handwriting, yes. I'm familiar
- 16 with them.
- 17 O You're familiar with them?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Okay. Let me bring your attention to the
- 20 Peoples Gas account. Again, tell me
- 21 something -- tell me what are some of things that
- 22 you've done with that account?

- 1 A Well, I pay the bill. When there are
- 2 discrepancies, I make phone calls.
- 3 Q Okay. Will you look at my first document
- 4 which is numbered page one.
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Do you recognize that document?
- 7 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Could we have a copy of those?
- 8 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- 9 BY MR. SMITH:
- 10 Q And who is that document from?
- 11 A Peoples Gas.
- 12 Q If you can speak a little bit louder,
- 13 please.
- 14 A Peoples Gas.
- Q And what were you informed of?
- 16 A When you say "what was I informed of," you
- 17 mean what's on here --
- 18 Q Yes.
- 19 A -- is that what your saying?
- 20 O Yes.
- 21 A It says boiler number one, hitch yellow
- 22 flame possible -- I don't know what that word is --

- 1 Q Okay. That's good enough. Okay. But that
- is a document that was received by you all; right?
- 3 A Right.
- 4 Q Okay. If you could turn to page -- page
- 5 two.
- 6 A Okay.
- 7 Q Okay. Is that your handwriting?
- 8 A It is.
- 9 Okay. And what would those
- 10 documents -- what were those notes for?
- 11 A Those notes were because I had some issues
- 12 and -- or concerns in regards to bills. So, I called
- 13 Peoples Gas regarding those.
- 14 O Okay.
- 15 A And the people that I -- or persons I spoke
- 16 with, I dated it. I put the person's name and the
- 17 time.
- 18 Q Okay. When you say "bills," would
- 19 you -- if I was to --
- 20 MR. SMITH: Can we stipulate when she said
- 21 "bills," we're talking about the two bills that are
- 22 at issue? Can we stipulate to that?

- 1 MS. WEATHERSBY: Sure.
- 2 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 3 MS. WEATHERSBY: We can stipulate that we're
- 4 talking about the 10/25/01 and the 10/25/02, yes, we
- 5 can.
- 6 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
- 7 BY MR. SMITH:
- 8 Q So, you would call and have what type of
- 9 discussions with Peoples Gas?
- 10 A Well, with the concerns that I had in
- 11 regards to the bills. You know, why they
- 12 would -- they were so high or the reasons or
- 13 estimated bills or whatever.
- 14 O You mentioned estimated bills. Did you
- 15 ever request not to receive estimated bills?
- 16 A Yes, I did.
- 17 Q And what type of response did you receive?
- 18 A When you say "what kind of response,"
- 19 what -- I was told that we weren't supposed to be
- 20 receiving them, but the bills did not say that.
- 21 Q Okay. Would you mind turning to page five.
- 22 A Okay.

- 1 Q Do you recall having a discussion with
- 2 someone at Peoples Gas regarding these bills in July?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q On or about July 1 of 2003?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And what did you tell them?
- 7 A My question was -- to Ms. Johnson was why
- 8 were we receiving the high estimated bills. And she
- 9 gave her response as to why.
- 10 Q And what was her response?
- 11 A She said because of late payments of
- 12 November, December '02, January, February, March,
- 13 April, June '03, because current bills were paid when
- 14 the total amount due should have been paid.
- 15 Q Okay. If you turn to page eight of those
- 16 stack of documents.
- 17 A Okay.
- 18 Q And that bill on page eight is dated
- 19 January 25th, '01. Do you see that?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Okay. There is a part on that bill that
- 22 says "balance"?

- 1 A Right.
- 2 O What's the balance on that bill?
- 3 A It says zero here.
- 4 Q Zero? Okay. And what's the amount due on
- 5 that bill?
- 6 A 1498318.
- 7 O Okay. And also there's a little box that
- 8 says meter reading. It talks about actual and
- 9 estimate. Is that -- what type of bill is that?
- 10 A Did you say --
- 11 Q Is that an actual bill or an estimate of
- 12 your bill?
- 13 A It says here current estimated.
- 14 O Okay. Okay. So, this bill right here does
- not show any -- doesn't show you being late; right?
- 16 A No. It says it was paid on 1/31.
- 17 Q Okay.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. Counsel, we need
- 19 the witness to authenticate where it shows paid and
- 20 whose information this is. I'm stipulating but at
- 21 some point we need some authentication as to the bill
- 22 that was received from Peoples and then how that

- 1 document may have been modified by your client if --
- 2 MR. SMITH: I think the record will speaks
- 3 (sic) for themselves because when the balance carries
- 4 forward, it will show whether or not there was a
- 5 balance due or --
- 6 MS. WEATHERSBY: I agree that the
- 7 records -- that we've said they're not modified by
- 8 any handwritten notes --
- 9 MR. SMITH: I won't --
- 10 MS. WEATHERSBY: They speak for themselves.
- 11 BY MR. SMITH:
- 12 Q Don't address any handwritten notes unless
- 13 I ask you to, okay?
- 14 A (Nodding.)
- 15 MR. SMITH: Would that be better?
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Yes.
- 17 MR. SMITH: It's no problem, Counsel.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Uh-huh.
- 19 BY MR. SMITH:
- 20 Q If you go to page nine of this -- of those
- 21 bills and go to the balance section, is there a
- 22 balance?

- 1 A It says total balance 1168871.
- 2 Q No, no. You're looking at page nine?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Page nine?
- 5 A Oh, balance zero zero.
- 6 Q Balance zero --
- 7 A At the top right.
- 8 Q Okay. And what's the amount due on that
- 9 bill?
- 10 A 1168871.
- 11 Q Okay. And is this bill -- this -- an
- 12 actual or estimate bill?
- 13 A It says -- in current it says actual.
- 14 Q Okay. So, the actual bill?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q So, you see no record of being late; right?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Okay. If you go to page ten, just quickly,
- 19 page ten.
- 20 A Uh-huh.
- Q And that bill is dated when?
- 22 A 3/27/01.

- 1 Q And what's the balance on that bill?
- 2 A It says zero zero.
- 3 Q Okay. And do you see the amount due?
- 4 A You mean the total balance?
- 5 Q Yes.
- 6 A 584621.
- 7 Q Okay. And is that an actual or -- an
- 8 estimate or actual bill?
- 9 A It says estimated.
- 10 Q Okay. Look at page 11, please.
- 11 A Uh-huh.
- 12 Q That bill is dated when -- the bill date?
- 13 A 4/25.
- 14 0 '01?
- 15 A Right.
- Q Okay. And do you see a zero balance?
- 17 A Balance zero, right.
- 18 Q Okay. And is that an actual reading or
- 19 estimate?
- 20 A It says actual.
- Q Okay. Good. If you go to page 12.
- 22 A Uh-huh.

- 1 Q That bill is dated May 29th, 2001?
- 2 A Correct.
- 3 Q Do you see the balance?
- 4 A Zero zero.
- 5 Q Okay. And is that an actual or estimate
- 6 bill?
- 7 A Estimated.
- 8 Q Okay.
- 9 MS. WEATHERSBY: Your Honor, we've stipulated
- 10 to the record and I would just say that the records
- 11 speak for themselves. And this is leading us up to
- 12 the time period but a long time before, so -- I'm
- 13 just going to object, that the records speak for
- 14 themselves to the extent that the witness is
- 15 testifying to what the record reflects. If we could
- 16 just go to a record that she's testifying
- 17 regarding -- otherwise the records --
- 18 MR. SMITH: Sure. I agree. I agree with you,
- 19 Counsel. The records speak for themselves, but also
- 20 I want to bring out the point that from the period of
- 6/26/01 to 10/25/01, you continue to receive
- 22 estimates where the client requested actual bills.

- 1 And then from the period of 12/31/01 all the way up
- 2 to 4/23/03, you continue to receive estimates for
- 3 17 months in addition and the client continually
- 4 asked for actual bills.
- 5 MS. WEATHERSBY: Well --
- 6 MR. SMITH: And the records will reflect that.
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: I'll object to the summary as
- 8 to what the client has asked for and so forth and so
- 9 on. But I will stipulate if the bills say actual or
- 10 estimate, that's what they were, subject to any other
- 11 records that will show, you know, something
- 12 differently or other independent visits to the
- 13 premises that show actual reads.
- 14 So, my only point was if we're going to
- 15 just keep doing this, the records speak for
- 16 themselves.
- 17 MR. SMITH: Okay. That's the point I want to
- 18 bring out. And, again, the records speak for
- 19 themselves and they're already in evidence.
- 20 JUDGE DOLAN: So, it's to the extent of that,
- 21 we're just going to go ahead and stipulate to these
- 22 bills for what they say or not say and then --

- 1 MS. WEATHERSBY: To the extent they're not
- 2 modified in writing and then we may be looking at
- 3 these same bills for different purposes in our case
- 4 in chief. But the bills are the bills, subject to
- 5 any other additional billings or visits or so forth
- 6 in evidence.
- 7 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 8 MS. WEATHERSBY: For the record, I'm just
- 9 saying if we could --
- 10 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- 11 MS. WEATHERSBY: -- get a little bit closer to
- 12 the --
- 13 MR. SMITH: That's fine.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: -- time period, maybe a month
- 15 or two before --
- 16 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: -- that might help us.
- MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 19 JUDGE DOLAN: That's fine. It will speed it
- 20 up.
- 21 BY MR. SMITH:
- 22 Q I just want to ask you one -- a few more

- 1 questions. Go to page 17.
- 2 A Uh-huh.
- 3 Q Okay. Is that a document that was in your
- 4 records?
- 5 A Correct.
- 6 Q And you provided that to me?
- 7 A Yes, I did.
- 8 Q And what is that document telling us?
- 9 A That Peoples Gas was here today to repair
- 10 the gas leak.
- 11 Q And what's the date of that?
- 12 A September the 28th, '01.
- Q Okay. If you will, go to page 42.
- 14 A Uh-huh.
- Okay. Do you recognize that document?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Do you recognize the handwriting on that
- 18 document?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q Whose handwriting is that?
- 21 A It's mine.
- 22 Q Mine. Okay. If I see a handwriting that

- 1 says 11 slash 7, is that yours?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q What is that note regarding?
- 4 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Can you please point?
- 5 MR. SMITH: Sure. The one that says 11/7 right
- 6 there.
- 7 BY THE WITNESS:
- 8 A Do you mean you want me to read what that
- 9 says?
- 10 Q Or you can tell me in your own words.
- 11 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. I think if these
- 12 are her writings, then she should read it. But --
- 13 MR. SMITH: That's fine.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Sustained. Yes, go ahead and
- 15 read it for the record.
- 16 BY THE WITNESS:
- 17 A Okay. Talked to Peoples Energy customer
- 18 service and Ms. Davis and Mr. K. Thomas, supervisor
- 19 working on the dispute. And then I have, like, the
- telephone number (312) 814-2850, Illinois Commerce
- 21 Commission to request hearing.
- Q Okay. What years are these notes for?

- 1 What year?
- 2 A It's got to be -- I didn't put the year
- 3 there. I'm not sure about that because --
- 4 O What is the date on the bill?
- 5 A It's '02. So, this was ten. So, if this
- 6 is 11 -- I see I do have 1/29/03. So, this has to be
- 7 '02, because I do have a notation for 1/29/03.
- 8 Q So, the 11 and 7 is basically for 2002?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Okay. How about the note that says 11/19?
- 11 Read that please.
- 12 A Mr. Harvell waiting to hear from Peoples
- 13 Gas to set up hearing request.
- 14 O Okay. I see a note for it that says 11/27.
- 15 A Uh-huh. A message from Mr. Harvell on the
- 16 status of the hearing.
- Q Okay. Read the one that says 11/15.
- 18 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Objection, your Honor. What's
- 19 the relevance of this?
- JUDGE DOLAN: Counsel?
- 21 MR. SMITH: The relevance is that there's a
- 22 track record of my client requesting not to have

- 1 estimated bills. And I think once we get Peoples Gas
- on the stand that there's a document that they
- 3 provided to me that says basically that if the
- 4 customer doesn't want estimated bills, they won't
- 5 provide estimated bills. So, I just want to make
- 6 that point.
- 7 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: These notes say nothing about
- 8 estimation. They say request hearing. I don't see
- 9 how they refer to estimation at all.
- 10 JUDGE DOLAN: For that part, I will sustain her
- 11 objection.
- 12 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 13 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay.
- MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 15 BY MR. SMITH:
- 16 Q Why were you having these discussions
- 17 with -- or making these notes regarding Peoples Gas?
- 18 A Because of the bills. Because of the way
- 19 the bills were, Reverend requested a hearing.
- 20 O What was the problem with the bill?
- 21 A Because Reverend -- they were high.
- Q They were high?

- 1 A Yeah. And we were still getting estimated
- 2 bills also.
- Q Oh, okay.
- 4 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- 5 BY MR. SMITH:
- 6 Q Go to -- go to page 43. And you have -- is
- 7 that your writing?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Okay. And you have 12 slash 3 and you got
- 10 per. Can you read that. That's the one that's
- 11 like --
- 12 A Yes, per Ms. --
- 13 O Yeah.
- 14 A Per Ms. Rudolph, reading on 11/21 will
- 15 reflect actual reading, which will be billed after
- 16 12/24. Must pay current charges to avoid late
- 17 charges and a disconnect notice.
- 18 Q Okay. Go to page 44. I just want to make
- one point. If you could read page 44, the bill dated
- 20 12/27/02. And do you see where it says "customer" on
- 21 the left-hand side?
- 22 A I guess that's part of customer, yeah.

- 1 Q Right. Now go down to -- just go straight
- down. It has a line that says "next meter reading".
- 3 Do you see that? I think next is kind of cut off.
- 4 It says next meter reading February 20, 2003?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. And without going through all these
- 7 bills -- but you will probably -- I mean, it's safe
- 8 to assume that all the other bills that are in this
- 9 stack would indicate the next meter reading?
- 10 A You're asking me would it say that?
- 11 Q Let's assume that. Is that okay?
- 12 A Okay.
- Q Okay. Okay.
- 14 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Cross-examination?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 18 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 20 Q Ms. Walker, hi, I'm Jaime Hochhausen. You
- 21 would agree that the building is approximately a
- 22 hundred years old or it's a fairly old building?

- 1 A It's old, yes.
- 2 Q And it's a brick building?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 O And the church is a church and it has a
- 5 school as well; correct?
- A No, we don't have a school.
- 7 O No, there's no school?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q Approximately -- how -- what time does the
- 10 church open?
- 11 A 8:00 in the morning.
- 12 Q And approximately what time does the church
- 13 close?
- 14 A About five.
- 15 O About five?
- 16 A Uh-huh.
- 17 O And is this on weekends as well or is there
- 18 a different schedule for weekends?
- 19 A Well, it's -- Monday through Saturday, it's
- 20 eight to five. It could change, though. I mean,
- 21 like on Saturday the time could change. On Sunday,
- 22 I'd say probably around eight and then whatever time

- 1 we have service in the afternoon or whatever. That
- 2 could vary, too.
- 3 Q Okay. And you have church services every
- 4 Sunday?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Do you have any other services?
- 7 A Do you mean like other than Sunday?
- 8 O Yeah.
- 9 A Well, we're open every day. We do have
- 10 Bible study on Wednesdays and Tuesdays.
- 11 Q And is that during the day or --
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And do elderly attend your church?
- 14 A Elderly?
- 15 Q Yes.
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And young children?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q So, you'd want to keep the heat level at a
- 20 comfortable level for those people; correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q And do you have special services for

- 1 holidays as well?
- 2 A Well, we did have watch meeting this year.
- 3 This year we did have watch meeting --
- 4 Q Okay.
- 5 A -- and we didn't have morning service for
- 6 Christmas this year. So, sometimes we do, yes.
- 7 Q Okay. And are all the windows in the
- 8 church closed at all times?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Including the windows in the basement? Are
- 11 there windows in the base?
- 12 MR. SMITH: Objection. Vague. Where in the
- 13 basement?
- 14 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- Q Are there windows at all in the basement?
- 16 A I -- you know --
- 17 JUDGE DOLAN: Go ahead and answer. Yeah, go
- 18 ahead and answer, ma'am.
- 19 BY THE WITNESS:
- 20 A As far as windows in the basement, I don't
- 21 know about that.
- Q Have you ever been in the basement?

- 1 A I've been to the baptismal -- baptismal
- 2 pool.
- 3 Q There's a baptismal pool in the basement?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And when you -- in the -- so, do you do
- 6 baptisms in the basement?
- 7 A That's where the pool is.
- 8 Q Okay. Do you have any other service of any
- 9 sort in the basement?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q And have you seen the meter in the
- 12 basement?
- 13 A No. That's not a part of my job.
- Q Any other time that you've gone to the
- 15 basement, have you smelled gas?
- 16 A Smelled gas?
- 17 O Yes.
- 18 A Well, I've only been in there maybe like
- one or twice, so I -- I haven't smelled gas. I don't
- 20 know. I mean --
- 21 Q Okay. Are you aware of where the boiler is
- in the basement?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q Are you aware of where the hot water tanks
- 3 are in the basement?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q Is there a kitchen in the church?
- 6 A Yeah. We have one off from the business
- 7 office.
- 8 Q Where is that?
- 9 A It's like off from the business office.
- 10 Well, it's like when you come in -- you come in and
- 11 there is a little foyer, then there's the business
- office, then you go through the social hall and then
- 13 you go straight back to the kitchen.
- 14 O Okay. And does that have a stove in it?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And are there any other appliances in
- 17 there? A refrigerator?
- 18 A Yes. A warmer --
- 19 O And where is the door to the basement
- 20 located in the church? Is it in the front, the back?
- 21 A I'm not too sure about that. I think if
- 22 you went -- once you come in, I think if you went

- 1 through the side door here -- you know, like when
- 2 you're in the hallway, I think you go down the steps.
- 3 So, I -- but you probably could enter it from other
- 4 ways, too.
- 5 Q So, if you're not even sure where the --
- 6 so, you're not sure exactly where it's located?
- 7 A I know you can go that way to the
- 8 basement --
- 9 Q Okay.
- 10 A -- from my office -- I mean right across
- 11 from my office. I don't really deal with the
- 12 basement.
- Q Okay.
- 14 A I'm just a secretary, so...
- 15 Q And the -- so, if a Peoples Gas employee
- 16 came to read the meter, you would not know where it
- 17 was at to show them?
- 18 A I would refer them to the maintenance or I
- 19 would refer them to one of the deacons.
- 20 Q Okay. What are the hours of your
- 21 maintenance personnel?
- 22 A Eight to four.

- 1 Q And how many people?
- 2 A Two.
- 3 O Two? And where would they be located?
- 4 Would you have to find them?
- 5 A We have walkie-talkies.
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A I can get them whenever I want.
- 8 O Okay. And what are the hours of the deacon
- 9 (sic)?
- 10 A The deacons, they're in and out all day.
- 11 Usually they're there around 8:30 or 9:00. And they
- 12 can stay as late as one, two. And after that
- 13 Reverend Jackson is always on the premises.
- 14 O Okay. But the deacons are not constantly
- 15 at the church?
- 16 A Yeah. They're there every day.
- 17 Q But do they leave during the day at all?
- 18 A Yeah, they leave during the day. But if
- 19 they did leave, Reverend Jackson is there and he
- 20 knows the building.
- Q Okay. At the times that the church is not
- open to the public, are the doors kept locked?

- 1 A Yes.
- 3 locked?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q During the day at all times or --
- 6 A It should be locked at all times.
- 7 Q So, even when the church is open the
- 8 basement door is locked?
- 9 A Yes, it's locked. You have to have a key
- 10 to get in it.
- 11 Q Okay. And did Mr. Holt, the man who fixed
- 12 the boiler, did he ever come to you to be let into
- 13 the basement?
- 14 A Yes.
- Q And approximately how many times?
- 16 A I don't -- I didn't count them. So,
- 17 I've -- to be perfectly honest, I did not count them.
- 18 So, I don't know how many.
- 19 Q Okay. Did you show him to the basement?
- 20 A No. I never do that.
- 21 Q Okay. Who did you --
- 22 A I refer him to the maintenance or the

- 1 deacons. If the deacons have left the premises and
- 2 if the guys are gone to lunch or whatever, I get
- 3 Reverend Jackson.
- 4 Q Okay. And on those occasions that Mr. Holt
- 5 came to look at the boiler, did he ever tell you that
- 6 there was a gas leak?
- 7 A He wouldn't tell me that.
- 8 O Who would he tell?
- 9 A He would tell Reverend Jackson or the
- 10 deacons. I'm just a secretary. That's not a part of
- 11 my job.
- 12 Q Were you aware of any gas leak?
- 13 A I was aware of that and told we did have
- 14 them.
- Q Who made you aware of that?
- 16 A The deacons, the pastor.
- 17 Q Did you make any reports of this?
- 18 A When you say "reports" --
- 19 Q Did you ever write down anywhere that there
- 20 was a gas leak?
- 21 A That would not have been something that I
- 22 would have done. That would have been the deacons.

- 1 Q Did you ever call Peoples Gas to report a
- 2 gas leak?
- 3 A I never had to call them. The deacons
- 4 would have had to have done that. That's a part of
- 5 their job.
- 6 Q Okay. And did you review the deacons
- 7 records regarding these leaks?
- 8 A If the deacons brought me information, it
- 9 went into our files.
- 10 Q Okay. And during -- between approximately
- 11 2001, 2002, you were -- were you doing any kind of
- 12 construction or anything on the church?
- 13 A The renovation has been going on for a
- 14 while.
- Okay. And the boilers were replaced during
- 16 that time; correct?
- 17 A I don't have the actual date that they were
- 18 replaced, but I know it's been recently or about a --
- 19 O Okay.
- 20 A -- year or two or whatever.
- 21 Q Do you know if any piping was replaced or
- 22 changed?

- 1 A I would have to go to those records to see
- what was actually done. Because I don't have
- 3 anything to do with that, normally what I do is: I
- 4 file it. I don't necessarily read it.
- 5 Q Okay. And during the period from
- 6 October 2001 to October 2002, Mr. Holt was not a
- 7 regular maintenance man for the boiler?
- 8 A October -- what was it that you said?
- 9 October 2001 to 2002 or any time between
- 10 2001 and 2002?
- 11 A I can't answer for 2001 because I was not
- 12 there.
- 13 Q Okay. How about 2002?
- 14 A And your question again?
- 15 O Mr. Holt was not the regular
- 16 maintenance -- the man -- he was not the regular
- 17 person who maintained the boilers?
- 18 A I'm not sure about that. I'd have to look
- 19 at my paperwork.
- 20 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions. Thank
- 21 you.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Any re- -- any redirect?

- 1 MR. SMITH: Let me see.
- 2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 3 BY
- 4 MR. SMITH:
- 5 Q If someone brought to the attention that
- 6 there was a gas leak, that was outside of the scope
- 7 of your job?
- 8 A Right. That should go to the deacons.
- 9 Q Go to the deacon or would --
- 10 A Or Reverend Jackson.
- 11 Q Or Reverend Jackson. Okay. In the year of
- 12 2002 -- January 1 to December 31, 2002, just based on
- 13 your recollection, how many times do you recall
- 14 Peoples Gas coming out to read the meter?
- 15 A I can't answer for January 2002 because I
- 16 didn't start until March of 2002.
- Q Okay. From March of 2002?
- 18 A To be perfectly honest, I really couldn't
- 19 really really say. I don't -- I do remember a few
- times, but I really couldn't say just how many.
- 21 Q Okay. That's good enough.
- MR. SMITH: No further questions.

- JUDGE DOLAN: Any recross?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes, please.
- 3 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 4 BY
- 5 MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 6 Q You said that you normally would not deal
- 7 with a gas leak, that you would refer it to the
- 8 deacon?
- 9 A Or Reverend, correct.
- 10 Q So, three people could possibly have dealt
- 11 with a potential gas leak at the church?
- 12 A I wouldn't just say three people because we
- 13 have different deacons that come. We have a whole
- 14 deacon board.
- 15 Q So, it would be up to -- approximately how
- 16 many people would know?
- 17 A It depends on what information is given.
- 18 We have two deacons come every day -- every day.
- 19 Q But you would -- but if there was a report
- of a gas leak, you would take -- you would tell the
- 21 deacons -- one of the deacons that was present?
- 22 A Well, I don't understand when you say "if

- there is a gas leak, I would tell them".
- 2 Q If someone reported to you that there was a
- 3 gas leak or if you detected a gas leak --
- 4 A Uh-huh.
- 5 Q -- you said you would not call Peoples Gas;
- 6 right?
- 7 A If you -- if the deacon told me -- if
- 8 someone told me it was a gas leak and it wasn't a
- 9 deacon around, yes, I would call Peoples Gas. But
- 10 I'm saying that's not normal a part of my job because
- 11 they are there. They are there when I'm there. So,
- if I'm there at eight in the morning, they're usually
- 13 there around 8:30 or 9:00.
- Q So, if there was an emergency, you would
- 15 call?
- 16 A If it was an emergency and they weren't
- 17 there, yes, I would.
- 18 Q But if there was an emergency and they were
- 19 there, you would go to them?
- 20 A If there was an emergency with the gas,
- 21 they would have to tell me that it's there. And then
- if they wanted me to call, yes, then I would call for

- 1 them. But it's their job to do it.
- Q Okay. But you, yourself, have not called
- 3 about a gas leak?
- 4 A I've never called about a gas leak.
- 5 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Anything else?
- 7 MR. SMITH: No.
- JUDGE DOLAN: All right, ma'am, you're excused.
- 9 MR. SMITH: Can we go off the record for a
- 10 second?
- 11 JUDGE DOLAN: Yes. Off the record.
- 12 (Discussion off the record.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: Sir, would you please identify
- 14 yourself for the record.
- THE WITNESS: I am Reverend Joseph Jackson,
- 16 pastor of Mt. Pisgah.
- 17 JUDGE DOLAN: Will you please raise your right
- 18 hand.
- 19 (Witness sworn.)
- 20 JUDGE DOLAN: Go ahead counsel.

21

22

- 1 REVEREND JOSEPH JACKSON,
- 2 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 3 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 5 BY
- 6 MR. SMITH:
- 7 Q Reverend Jackson, I'm going to ask if I ask
- 8 you a question, give me an audible answer. No hand
- 9 gestures because it's being taped. I want to make
- 10 sure we have a clear record, okay?
- 11 A Sure.
- 12 Q Please state your name for the record.
- 13 A Joseph Jackson.
- 14 O And what is your professional title?
- 15 A I'm the pastor of Mt. Pisgah Missionary
- 16 Baptist Church.
- 17 Q Okay. And about how long have you been the
- 18 pastor of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church?
- 19 A A little over nine years.
- 20 Q A little over nine years? Okay. And what
- 21 is your day-to-day duties as pastor of the Mt. Pisgah
- 22 Missionary Baptist Church?

- 1 A I am the ex officio of all operations of
- 2 the church.
- 3 Q Oh, okay. And what times are you usually
- 4 at the church?
- 5 A Normally between 7:00 a.m. till 5:00, 6:00,
- 6 7:00 and many times over that. So, I'm normally
- 7 there seven days a week between the hours
- 8 of -- between 7:00 or 8:00 and 6:00 and 7:00 to 9:00
- 9 at night.
- 10 Q Okay. Do you have access to the basement
- 11 where the boiler room is located?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Okay. Other than you, who else have (sic)
- 14 access to that room?
- 15 A Our officers and maintenance group.
- 16 Q Okay. Did you or someone from the church
- 17 have a problem with any billing from Peoples Gas?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q What was your problem or concern?
- 20 A The -- that the estimated billing for two
- 21 years back was, in my eyes, unnecessary and
- 22 excessive.

- 1 Q Excessive? Okay. Did you or anyone from
- 2 the church contact Peoples Gas to request actual
- 3 bills?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Okay. Has it ever been brought to your
- 6 attention that there may have been a gas leak --
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 O -- at the -- in the boiler room?
- 9 A Yes. It was brought to my attention that
- 10 once prior to the leak being fixed by -- installing a
- 11 new meter and piping. And also three weeks ago
- 12 Peoples Gas had to be called out to fix a leak at the
- 13 same location.
- 14 O Do you recall what year that was?
- 15 A Let me see -- 2003, 2001 and three weeks
- 16 ago. So, it's been three times to my knowledge.
- 17 Q Three times to your knowledge? Okay. So,
- 18 whenever there was a leak, it was brought to your
- 19 attention by someone else? You didn't actually smell
- 20 it yourself?
- 21 A I smelled one.
- Q Okay. What year was that? Do you recall?

- 1 A That was three weeks ago.
- 2 Q Three weeks ago? Okay. And what did you
- 3 do?
- 4 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. It's beyond the
- 5 scope of this case. 2005?
- JUDGE DOLAN: Well, three weeks ago would have
- 7 been 2004.
- 8 MS. WEATHERSBY: Yeah, okay.
- 9 JUDGE DOLAN: But he's just testifying about
- 10 what his procedure was. I don't think -- it's not
- 11 going to be relevant for the case.
- 12 MR. SMITH: Right.
- 13 JUDGE DOLAN: So, I'll allow it.
- 14 BY THE WITNESS:
- 15 A Well, if there was a gas leak and I was not
- 16 aware of it, officers are accessible -- or rather the
- 17 room is accessible to the officers who would in turn
- 18 do it if I'm not available.
- 19 O Okay.
- 20 A So, either they alert me to the situation
- 21 or I find it myself.
- Q Okay. The room where the boiler is, can

- 1 you describe the insul- -- I mean, what type of
- 2 ventilation does it have.
- 3 A There's a perforated window at the top of
- 4 the room that was installed to allow for ventilation
- 5 because of the boiler room's usage of gas.
- 6 Q Okay. So, it's well ventilated?
- 7 A Oh, yes, well ventilated, plus we have
- 8 other airways that are throughout the basement -- the
- 9 adjoining room and, you know, airflow that comes
- 10 through the basement through other airways.
- 11 Q Okay. So, it's your testimony that if you
- were informed of a leak, then someone would contact
- 13 Peoples Gas?
- 14 A Yes, if it was discovered.
- Q What was your problem with the bills you
- 16 received? Were they lower than what you expected or
- 17 higher?
- 18 A Much higher.
- 19 O Much higher?
- 20 A Much higher.
- Q Okay. And you've been pastor for nine
- 22 years?

- 1 A Yes, a little over nine years.
- 2 Q Okay. And you would -- did you have access
- 3 to seeing the bills from Peoples Gas when they
- 4 came -- or the records?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. So, based upon your experience and
- 7 being the pastor for nine years and being the
- 8 overseer, you have an idea as to -- based upon past
- 9 experience, an estimate how much the bill should be
- on a monthly basis based upon the weather conditions?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Were you ever made aware that Peoples Gas
- 13 had to increase the gas pressure?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Who made you aware of that and when?
- 16 A The technician requested it.
- 17 Q Okay. Do you know why he requested it?
- 18 A He said he wasn't getting adequate gas
- 19 pressure into the boiler.
- 20 Q Into the boiler?
- 21 A Right.
- 22 Q And where -- do you know where the gas

- 1 pressure comes from?
- 2 A That I know of, the meter.
- Q Okay.
- 4 A The meter area.
- 5 Q Okay. How -- do you know how readings are
- 6 done at the church now?
- 7 A Well, to my knowledge, they're being read
- 8 by Peoples Gas remotely.
- 9 Q Okay. Do you know when that started?
- 10 A Not exactly, no.
- 11 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: Cross-examination?
- 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 14 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 16 Q You said you arrive at the church
- 17 approximately 7:00 in the morning and you stay until
- 18 5:00 or 6:00 at night; correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q And during that time period, are you at the
- 21 church the entire time?
- 22 A Well, except for lunch or occasional

- 1 funerals, occasional visiting sick in the hospital.
- 2 Other than that, I'm there.
- 3 Q Approximately -- during the week, how many
- 4 times would you maybe have something like that?
- 5 A That varies. It normally doesn't happen
- 6 every week.
- 7 Q Okay. How about like throughout the year?
- 8 Can you give any estimate?
- 9 A Throughout the year I do ten funerals the
- 10 whole year.
- 11 Q Okay. And the basement is -- where is the
- 12 basement located in the church?
- 13 A The basement -- well, they're -- there are
- 14 three.
- 15 Q Like the door to get to the basement.
- 16 A There are three doors, three accesses to
- 17 the basement. There is a subbasement and basement
- 18 and another basement.
- 19 O Where the boiler are located?
- 20 A You mean where the boiler are?
- Q Yeah.
- 22 A Okay. The boiler is located in the center

- 1 section of the complex.
- Q Okay. Well, how would you get there?
- 3 A You would -- you would -- you can get there
- 4 three different ways.
- 5 Q Which way -- if a person came to read the
- 6 meter, where would you take the Peoples Gas employee
- 7 to read the meter?
- 8 A Well, we would take them one of two ways,
- 9 I'm saying.
- 10 Q Could you please tell me one way and
- 11 then --
- 12 A Okay. We take them either through the
- 13 basement of the educational building and walk them
- 14 over or we take them through the sanctuary entrance
- 15 and walk them down.
- 16 Q Okay.
- 17 A Okay.
- 18 Q So, if a Peoples Gas employee came to read
- 19 the meter, they would need someone to show them where
- 20 to go; correct?
- 21 A Oh, yes. They would have to have someone
- 22 take them.

- 1 Q Okay. And you said you've smelled just one
- 2 gas leak; correct?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q You have a baptismal in your basement?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And, so, you do baptisms in the basement?
- 7 A Oh, yes.
- 8 Q How frequently do you have baptisms?
- 9 A Three times a year.
- 10 Q And approximately how many people would be
- 11 present at those baptisms?
- 12 A As many as 30 people.
- Okay. And when they -- during any of those
- 14 baptisms, have you ever smelled a gas leak?
- 15 A Oh, no. It's nowhere near where the gas
- 16 leak is.
- 17 Q And when you smelled the gas leak,
- 18 who -- did you notify Peoples Gas?
- 19 A Oh, definitely.
- 20 O And on the other occasions where there were
- 21 the alleged gas leaks, who contacted -- did anyone
- 22 contact Peoples Gas?

- 1 A To my knowledge, an officer of the church.
- 2 Q And who would that be? How many officers
- 3 of the church are there?
- 4 A Well, there are 22 officers that we have
- 5 now, but they've changed over the years. For the
- 6 nine years I've been there, you know, we've changed
- 7 quite a few officers. So, it wouldn't be known
- 8 exactly who was there at the time.
- 9 Q Okay. Do you know any of the dates of
- 10 those gas leaks?
- 11 A No. I only know that there was a reported
- gas leak 2001, 2003 and the gas leak three weeks ago.
- 13 Q Okay. And did you ever review any records
- of any gas leaks?
- 15 A Myself?
- 16 O Yes.
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q What records did you review?
- 19 A I reviewed the record that was brought to
- 20 my attention at the prehearing.
- 21 Q But no one actually gave you, like,
- 22 a -- whoever detected the gas leak, no one gave you

- 1 their written report regarding the gas leak?
- 2 A Oh, no. No. No, not a personal report.
- 3 Q And were you ever aware of the locations of
- 4 those leaks?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q The specific locations you're aware of?
- 7 A Yes, at the meter.
- 8 Q Could you tell me the one in 2001, where
- 9 the leak was?
- 10 A That -- now, that one, I couldn't tell you.
- 11 Q How about the one in 2003?
- 12 A 2003, at the meter.
- 13 Q And who made you aware of that?
- 14 A The gas company.
- 15 Q The gas company --
- 16 A When the gas company came out to check the
- 17 pressure, they found the leaks.
- 19 A I found it.
- 20 Q Okay. And where did you find that one?
- 21 A At the meter. Because after the leak was
- 22 found in 2003 --

- 1 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection, your Honor.
- 2 There's no question that's pending.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry. No problem.
- 4 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 5 Q Mr. Holt, your boiler technician --
- 6 A Yes.
- 8 leaks?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Are you aware of how the gas pressure would
- 11 affect the amount of gas that would be read through
- 12 the meter?
- 13 A Only by the word of the technician --
- 14 O Okay.
- 15 A -- because they requested -- they requested
- 16 that Peoples Gas come out and check the pressure.
- 17 Q And could you tell me who this technician
- 18 was?
- 19 A Mr. Holt.
- 20 Q Okay. And on what date did he tell you
- 21 this?
- 22 A When he was installing the furnace.

- 1 Q And when did he -- do you recall when he
- 2 installed the furnace?
- 3 A Not exactly -- 2002 -- what -- three -- I
- 4 don't remember. It was like crossover in December to
- 5 January, something like that.
- 6 Q So, between -- approximately the end of
- 7 2002 beginning of 2003?
- 8 A I can't say exactly. It's -- I would have
- 9 to go back and find the records when that boiler was
- 10 installed because when the boiler was installed is
- 11 when the gas leak was detected, is when the
- 12 pressure -- is when the off pressure was detected,
- 13 Peoples Gas was called out, they found the leak, they
- 14 changed the meter and the piping to the meter at that
- 15 time. But I can't give you specific dates.
- 16 Q Okay. Did you bring any records of any
- 17 repairs or any of these (sic) leaks with you today?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q And do you have -- know of any actual reads
- 20 that were taken of the meter?
- 21 A Do I know of any actual readings?
- 22 Q Yes.

- 1 A I don't personally know.
- 3 your -- at the church -- you know, officer -- you've
- 4 said officers have information, you said that the
- 5 deacon or the secretary -- who would keep records --
- 6 A The secretary.
- 8 A The secretary would keep the records
- 9 regarding a gas leak, but when -- for instance, when
- 10 Peoples Gas just came out three weeks ago --
- 11 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection, your Honor.
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: Sustained. There's no question
- 13 pending, sir.
- 14 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Mr. Smith, redirect?
- MR. SMITH: Yeah, just a few questions.
- 17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 18 BY
- MR. SMITH:
- 20 Q You mentioned earlier that since your
- 21 tenure of being there for nine years, there's been 22
- officers, give or take; is that correct?

- 1 A Correct.
- 2 Q And in your experience, have there been
- 3 times when information may have been given to an
- 4 officer that wasn't given to someone else?
- 5 A Certainly.
- 6 Q Okay. Did Mr. Holt work for a company
- 7 called Reiter Heating before?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Okay. And other than Mr. Holt, has any
- 10 other technicians from Reiter Heating been there
- 11 before? Or any --
- 12 A Say that again.
- 13 O Let me restate that -- strike that.
- 14 Let me restate the question. Mr. Holt
- was formerly with Reiter Heating?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Okay. Other than Mr. Holt, who was a
- 18 former employee of Reiter Heating, has any other
- 19 employees from Reiter Heating been to the church? If
- 20 you don't understand --
- 21 A Since before -- I'm trying to --
- Q Let's -- I'm sorry I'm confusing you.

- 1 A We've had other technicians at Mt. Pisgah
- 2 prior to Reiter Heating, if you mean that.
- 4 A Or if you meant since --
- 5 JUDGE DOLAN: No question pending.
- 6 Q No question -- other than Mr. Holt, has any
- 7 other technician informed you of a gas leak before?
- 8 A Not of a gas leak, but gas pressure
- 9 problems, yes.
- 10 Q Okay.
- 11 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: Recross?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- 14 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 15 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 17 Q You would agree that the price of gas goes
- 18 up every year; correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q So, if you use the same amount of gas every
- 21 year and the price increased, the cost -- your bill
- 22 would increase?

- 1 A That's understood.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Anything else?
- 4 (No response.)
- 5 JUDGE DOLAN: All right. Thank you, sir. All
- 6 right. We'll take a recess. It's 10 after 12. How
- 7 about 1:00 we'll start again.
- 8 (Recess taken.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: Mr. Smith, do you have any more
- 10 witnesses?
- 11 MR. SMITH: No.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I'd like to call my first
- 13 witness, Kevin Rice.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: All right. Sir, would you please
- 15 state your name for the record.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Kevin Rice.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Would you raise your right hand,
- 18 please.
- 19 (Witness sworn.)
- 20
- 21
- 22

- 1 KEVIN RICE,
- 2 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 3 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 5 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 7 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Rice. Where do you
- 8 work?
- 9 A Peoples Energy.
- 10 Q And how long have you been employed there?
- 11 A 25 years.
- 12 Q And what's your position at Peoples Energy?
- 13 A Field Service Supervisor.
- 14 Q And how long have you been a field service
- 15 supervisor?
- 16 A About eight years.
- Q Could you tell me, generally, what that
- 18 department does?
- 19 A Basically turn on gas, leak investigations,
- 20 cutoffs. It's field service operation.
- 21 Q And approximately how many people do you
- 22 supervise?

- 1 A Roughly 50 people.
- 2 Q Okay. And as a field service supervisor,
- 3 are you familiar with the service and maintenance
- 4 orders of Peoples Gas?
- 5 A Yes, I am.
- 6 Q Is it within your job duties to create
- 7 those service and maintenance orders?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q I'd like to turn your attention to certain
- 10 gas leaks that were allegedly found at Mt. Pisgah
- 11 Missionary Baptist Church?
- 12 MR. SMITH: I'm going to make an objection of
- 13 this witness. I'm going through my list and I
- 14 don't --
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I provided to you a list that
- 16 I would have an expert testify regarding leaks and
- 17 also regarding the meter records. I did not provide
- 18 a specific name at the time I disclosed it because I
- 19 didn't have a specific witness yet. I believe I do
- 20 have -- I disclosed those way back in November.
- 21 JUDGE DOLAN: As a possible Peoples Gas service
- 22 supervisor on your letter dated November 12th?

- 1 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: (Nodding.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: So, I'll overrule that objection.
- 3 Go ahead and proceed, Counsel.
- 4 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 5 Q Okay. I'd like to first ask you, is there
- 6 any process or procedure that Peoples Gas uses to
- 7 ensure that customers can detect a gas leak?
- 8 A Yes. There's an odor added to the natural
- 9 gas so it'll be detected to the (sic) sense of smell.
- 10 Q And, so, would a normal person be able to
- 11 smell that?
- 12 A That's -- yes.
- 13 MR. SMITH: Objection. No foundation has been
- 14 laid as he's an expert in this area. I mean, how
- does a layperson detect there's odor in it. I mean,
- 16 she's just jumping right into it with no foundation.
- 17 I mean, he's a field supervisor, but he's not an
- 18 expert in whether a layperson has the ability to
- 19 detect a gas leak.
- JUDGE DOLAN: All right. Well, Counsel, go
- 21 ahead. And if you want to --
- MS. WEATHERSBY: I just want to add also that

- 1 he's a 25 year employee. He is qualified to testify
- 2 as to the odorant that is detectable by the human
- 3 nose and that anyone smelling that can smell it.
- 4 And, so, I think he is qualified to speak to
- 5 that -- speak to that point. You don't have to be an
- 6 expert. He simply said the company adds an odorant.
- 7 JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to overrule it,
- 8 Counsel, and just let her go ahead and proceed.
- 9 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 10 Q Okay. And in your job, do you have to
- 11 input service orders?
- 12 A Yes, I do.
- 13 Q In order to -- and once those service
- orders are put in the system, then what happens?
- 15 A The orders are routed and dispatched to
- 16 field service employees.
- 17 Q Okay. And if there's an order regarding a
- leak, how soon would that be repaired?
- 19 A It should be repaired the same day.
- 20 O And are all leaks treated equal?
- 21 A Yes, they are.
- 22 Q Is -- what happens if a leak can't be

- 1 repaired on the same day?
- 2 A We apply a temporary repair.
- 3 Q And then after that, would you come back in
- 4 and permanently repair it?
- 5 A The following day.
- 6 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- 7 No. 13 was marked for
- 8 identification as of this
- 9 date.)
- 10 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 11 Q Okay. I'm handing you what's been marked
- 12 as Respondent's Exhibit 13.
- 13 MR. SMITH: Were these documents provided to
- 14 me?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: You have all of the documents
- 16 that are -- were provided to you during discovery.
- 17 MS. WEATHERSBY: For the record, was there an
- 18 order that barred us from using demonstrative or
- other evidence that wasn't provided in advance?
- 20 MR. SMITH: It has to be provided seven days in
- 21 advance.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Counsel, can you show me that

- 1 order because I wasn't aware of that.
- 2 MR. SMITH: Sure. It may be in my stack, but I
- 3 don't recall seeing that.
- 4 JUDGE DOLAN: Counsel, just for your -- if you
- 5 look at this November 11th -- or November 12th
- 6 letter, that Greta (sic) sent, it says right on it
- 7 per parties agreement to do so one week before trial.
- 8 MS. WEATHERSBY: Okay. We can move on without
- 9 that exhibit.
- 10 MR. SMITH: I think I'm going to object to that
- 11 document as evidence.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: It's a demonstrative aid.
- 13 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: That's okay. I don't need to
- 14 use it.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Thank you, your Honor.
- 16 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 17 Q Okay. Is there anything as part of the
- 18 meter that's called a pump?
- 19 A No, there isn't.
- 20 Q When Mr. Holt referred to a pump, do you
- 21 have any idea what he was referring to?
- 22 A It's a valve -- a gas valve -- a shut-off

- 1 valve.
- 2 Q Okay. And what does that gas shut-off
- 3 valve do?
- 4 A It turns on and turns off the gas.
- 5 Q Where is that valve located?
- A Before the meter.
- 7 Q So, if there was a leak at that valve,
- 8 would it have any effect on the amount of gas that is
- 9 read through the meter?
- 10 A No, it would not.
- 11 (Whereupon, Respondent's Group
- 12 Exhibit No. 6 was marked for
- 13 identification as of this
- 14 date.)
- 15 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 16 Q I'm going to hand to you what's been
- 17 previously marked as Respondent's Group Exhibit 6.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: These have all been produced
- 19 to you.
- 20 MR. SMITH: All right.
- 21 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- Q Could you please tell me what these

- 1 documents are?
- 2 A These are leak investigation reports.
- 3 Q Okay. And was this record made by a person
- 4 with knowledge of or made from information
- 5 transmitted by a person with knowledge of the acts
- 6 appearing on it?
- 7 A Yes, it is. This is the service -- actual
- 8 serviceman that was out at the site.
- 9 O Okay. Was the record made at or near the
- 10 time of the acts and events appearing on it?
- 11 A After.
- 12 Q And is it in the regular practice of
- 13 Peoples Gas to make such a record?
- 14 A Yes, it is.
- 15 Q Was that record kept in the course of
- 16 regularly conducted business?
- 17 A Yes, it is.
- 18 Q I'd like you to look at page one. Could
- 19 you explain to me what is indicated on that service
- 20 order?
- 21 A Yes, I can. This is the serviceman report
- of his findings. It states that he made a permanent

- 1 repair at a 4-inch plug valve. The plug valve would
- 2 be -- as I referred to as the shut-off valve.
- Q Okay.
- 4 A It had a 4-inch upstream of the gas
- 5 meter -- left okay. Left the boiler on okay. The
- 6 contractor is to run a vent line to the Maxitrol to
- 7 the outside.
- 8 JUDGE DOLAN: Is that -- for the record, it
- 9 says here M-a-x-t-r-o-l, but you're sounding like
- 10 you're saying Maxitrel (sic) with an "I."
- 11 THE WITNESS: It's missing an "I."
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: There should be an "I"? Okay.
- M-a-x-i-t-r-o-1.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Excuse me.
- 15 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 16 Q Could you explain to me what a 4-inch plug
- 17 is?
- 18 A That's referring to the actual shut-off
- 19 valve. That's four inches in diameter -- the pipe
- 20 size.
- 21 Q And you said that valve is before the
- 22 meter?

- 1 A That's correct.
- 2 Q Is that what upstream -- what does upstream
- 3 of the meter mean?
- 4 A Upstream is all the piping and equipment
- 5 before the meter. Downstream will be all the piping
- 6 and equipment on the opposite side, downstream after
- 7 the gas meter.
- 8 Q Okay. And based on your experience, what
- 9 would cause a leak of that type?
- 10 A This is a manual operated valve. There's
- 11 lubricant inside of the valve. On situations where
- 12 the lubricant is dried up, it would produce a gas
- 13 leak.
- 14 Q And did Peoples Gas repair the leak on that
- 15 day?
- 16 A Yes, we did.
- 17 Q And how do you confirm that a repair was
- 18 made?
- 19 A By the employee's report.
- 20 Q And does Peoples Gas test to see that the
- 21 leak was properly repaired?
- 22 A The serviceman on site would.

- 1 Q And how do you do that?
- 2 A We have a soap compound -- solution that we
- 3 apply.
- 4 Q And what -- what does that do?
- 5 A Well, it would actually bubble if there's a
- 6 leak present.
- 7 Q Okay. So, that test would have been done
- 8 at this time?
- 9 A Yes --
- 10 Q And --
- 11 A -- to confirm -- excuse me.
- 12 Q Okay.
- 13 A Yes, it would.
- 14 Q And is the (sic) standard procedure for --
- 15 after each repair?
- 16 A Yes, it is.
- 17 Q And I'd like you to turn to page two and
- 18 three of Group Exhibit 6. Can you look at page two.
- 19 What's the dates of this service order?
- 20 A 9/28/2001.
- 21 Q Okay. And can you tell what this service
- 22 order says?

- 1 A Repaired leak and a 3-inch plug valve.
- 2 Q And what is a 3-inch plug valve?
- 3 A It's also a shut-off valve.
- 4 O And is this valve also before the meter?
- 5 A Yes, it is.
- 6 Q And, so, would this -- any leak at this
- 7 valve have any effect on the amount of gas that is
- 8 run through the meter?
- 9 A No, it would not.
- 10 Q And was this leak repaired as well?
- 11 A Yes, it was.
- 12 Q And was the leak test done in this case as
- 13 well?
- 14 A Yes, it was.
- 15 Q And now turn to pages four and five. And
- 16 what is the date on this record?
- 17 A 9/26/2002.
- 18 Q Okay. And can you tell what this says?
- 19 A This is a service person's report -- shut
- 20 off meter, leak at inch and a half shut off on
- 21 CHP -- central heating plant.
- 22 Q Could you explain to me what a central

- 1 heating plant is?
- 2 A That would be a source of heat for the
- 3 church -- one source of heat for the church.
- 4 Q Okay. So, would that mean the boiler in
- 5 this case?
- 6 A This would be a forced air unit.
- 7 Q Could you explain to me what that is?
- 8 A Well, the boiler is probably a steam heater
- 9 that supplies hot water that goes throughout the
- 10 church. A forced air central heating plant is
- 11 actually when there's a fan installed that pushes the
- 12 gas up through the duct work -- forced air.
- 13 Q So, would this be after the meter then?
- 14 A Yes, this would be an appliance.
- 15 Q So, this would be Mt. Pisgah's appliance?
- 16 A That's correct.
- 17 Q This would not be Peoples Gas' (sic) pipes;
- 18 correct?
- 19 A That's correct.
- 20 Q And is it Peoples Gas' responsibility to
- 21 fix a customer's appliance?
- 22 A No, it's not.

- 1 Q So, any gas leaking as a result of that
- 2 would not be Peoples Gas' responsibility; correct?
- 3 A That's correct.
- 4 Q Okay. Turn to page six. This is the
- 5 October 2nd, 2002 service order. Could you tell me
- 6 what this service order indicates, please.
- 7 A Customer thought gas was turned off at
- 8 meter. Found meter on and advised customer of same.
- 9 Q And was the gas turned off at this time?
- 10 A At -- from based on the report, no, it was
- 11 not.
- 12 Q And do we have a record of someone from
- 13 Peoples Gas turning the meter back on if the customer
- 14 thought it was off?
- 15 A No, I don't have that document.
- 16 Q Do you have any indication that the gas was
- 17 turned off? Look at page seven as well.
- 18 A Not by Peoples.
- 19 Q So, was the gas on or off when a service
- 20 person arrived?
- 21 A She found the gas on.
- 22 Q She found the gas on? Okay. Is there any

- 1 indication why the customer thought the gas was
- 2 turned off?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q No. And would this have any bearing on the
- 5 gas that was being read through the meter? Would
- 6 this have any bearing on gas usage?
- 7 A If the gas was off, it would.
- 8 Q Okay. Were there any leaks reported at
- 9 this time?
- 10 A No, there was not.
- 11 Q Turning to pages eight through ten. Could
- 12 you tell me what the service order on page nine
- 13 indicates -- well, actually all three. If you want
- 14 to just go through page eight first.
- 15 A Well, I'm going to omit page eight. I
- 16 can't read this particular document.
- 17 O Okay.
- 18 A Page nine states that this -- it looks like
- 19 this was actually a -- some type of investigation.
- 20 This was not for a leak. It states, the meter
- 21 supplies the heat and hot water for both church and
- 22 school. And she explained this to the secretary in

- 1 the office. There was some question what the meter
- 2 supplies. This had to have been generated from the
- 3 customer.
- 4 Q And could you -- at that time what does it
- 5 indicate that the employee did?
- 6 A That the boiler system supplied the church
- 7 and also the school building that was attached to the
- 8 church.
- 9 Q Okay. Could you read for me what it says
- 10 under -- in the remarks box on page nine.
- 11 A Yes. 713 is the employee number. This
- 12 meter supplies heat and hot water for both the church
- 13 and the school. She goes on to explain reading to
- 14 secretary.
- Okay. So, at that time the employee who
- 16 took this call explained the reading to the
- 17 secretary?
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 Q Okay. And were there any reports of a gas
- 20 leak at that time?
- 21 A No, there was not.
- 22 Q Now, turn to page 13, 14 and 15. On page

- 1 13, what is this service order for?
- 2 A It looks like to check the meter pressure.
- 3 Q Okay. And can you tell me what the remarks
- 4 say for that?
- 5 A Okay. It says pressure taken at meter
- 6 inlet and outlet. Meter pressure is six inches on
- 7 the outlet. The outlet of the meter good. 690 on
- 8 job.
- 9 Q Could you explain to me what the meter
- pressure -- what this indicates?
- 11 A The company maintains six inches of water
- 12 column that's gas pressured through our meter to
- 13 supply the customer's equipment.
- 14 O What is the date of that inspection?
- 15 A It will be December 4th, 2003.
- 16 O Why --
- 17 A The report -- oh, excuse me.
- 18 Q Why did you take -- or why did the Peoples
- 19 Gas employee take the pressure of the meter at this
- 20 time?
- 21 A Apparently there was some question about
- 22 the gas pressure through the gas meter.

- 1 Q What was the result of the gas pressure
- 2 test?
- 3 A The gas pressure was at six inches of water
- 4 column. That's within our guidelines. That's
- 5 perfect gas pressure.
- 6 Q So -- so, in December of 2003, the pressure
- 7 was the correct amount that was required by the ICC?
- 8 A That's correct.
- 9 Q So, in -- a couple months prior, then,
- 10 would you agree that it would have been -- the
- 11 pressure would have been within the regulations as
- 12 well?
- 13 A That's correct.
- 14 O In October 2003, it would have been
- 15 within --
- 16 A That's.
- 17 O -- I mean, October 2002?
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 Q Okay. Can you turn to page 14 then. What
- 20 is the date on that record?
- 21 A December 4th, 2003.
- Q Okay. And can you read -- please read what

- 1 the remarks say on the December 4th, 2003 record?
- 2 A Okay. It says leak found at 8-inch nipple
- 3 before meter. 8-inch nipple from 8-inch 90. 690 on
- 4 job. Okayed temporary repair on leak. 690 left on
- 5 job site with contractor.
- 6 Q So, there -- what is an 8-inch nipple?
- 7 A That'll be the size of the nipple.
- 8 Q Can you --
- 9 A Excuse me -- the size of the gas pipe,
- 10 excuse me.
- 11 JUDGE DOLAN: Can I just ask you -- you read
- 12 8-inch 90 and I see 8-inch ELL.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I apologize. A 90 and a ELL are
- 14 the same thing. It's the diameter of the fitting.
- 15 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay.
- 16 THE WITNESS: An elbow and a 90 are the same.
- 17 The terminology is different. I apologize.
- 18 JUDGE DOLAN: All right.
- 19 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 20 O This leak that was found at the 8-inch
- 21 nipple, where was this -- where would this nipple be
- 22 located?

- 1 A Before the meter.
- 2 Q So, again, this would not have any effect
- 3 on the amount of gas --
- 4 A Exactly.
- 5 Q -- being read? And this is December 4th,
- 6 2003; correct?
- 7 A That's correct.
- 8 Q So, this would be after the October 25th,
- 9 2002 bill that was issued?
- 10 A That's correct.
- 11 Q Were there any other leak records found at
- 12 the church?
- 13 A No, there was not.
- 14 O So, for all of these leaks that we had, all
- of the leaks were before the meter; correct?
- 16 A That's correct.
- 17 O And --
- 18 A Except --
- 19 Q Except the one?
- 20 A Excuse me. Except for the one. I'm not
- 21 sure what page that was on. The inch and a half
- 22 shut-off valve, that was after the meter.

- 1 Q That was --
- 2 A At the --
- 3 Q That was the customer's appliance; correct?
- 4 A That's correct.
- 5 Q So, we have -- Peoples Gas does not have a
- 6 responsibility to fix that; correct?
- 7 A That's correct.
- 8 O And it would have no effect on the amount
- 9 of gas being read through the meter?
- 10 A That would affect the meter.
- 11 Q Oh, right. But this -- it would be
- 12 after -- it would not be Peoples Gas responsibility
- 13 to correct that?
- 14 A That's correct.
- 15 Q The valve that you referred to, what color
- 16 was that?
- 17 A The inch and a half valve? Excuse me. The
- 18 valve at the appliance or the valve before the meter?
- 19 O The valve before the meter.
- 20 A The color?
- Q Yes.
- 22 A Originally it was red.

- 1 O And what color is it now?
- 2 A I'm not certain. At the time while we were
- 3 there, the valve was red.
- 4 Q In your history has -- has that valve ever
- 5 been called a pump?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q If a leak is found at the company's
- 8 appliance, what is Peoples Gas' -- what would be your
- 9 procedure at that time? Would you shut the gas off?
- 10 A Yes. We would repair the leak at a charge
- or we would disconnect the unit and shut the gas off
- 12 and leave it in a safe condition.
- Q Okay.
- 14 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- 15 JUDGE DOLAN: Cross-examination?
- MR. SMITH: Yeah.
- 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 18 BY
- 19 MR. SMITH:
- 20 Q Are you being compensated for your time?
- 21 A I'm on Peoples Gas salary at this time,
- 22 yes.

- 1 Q Okay. Have you ever been to the church at
- 2 4600 South King Drive?
- 3 A Yes, I have.
- 4 Q And when were you there?
- 5 A I was there in -- December 4th, 2003.
- 6 Q December 4th, 2003?
- 7 A That's correct.
- 9 A There's a good possibility I might have
- 10 been there. That was in my immediate work area.
- 11 Q Why were you there on December 4th, 2003?
- 12 A I was called by a service employee.
- 13 Q Okay. Why did the service employee feel
- 14 the need to call a field service supervisor?
- 15 A I control the repair group also. I'm the
- 16 supervisor in charge of -- at that time South
- 17 Service. I control the initial crews that go out and
- 18 actually do the repair work.
- 19 Q Uh-huh. How would -- so, you've
- 20 been -- you were there on 12/4/03? How would you
- 21 describe the ventilation in that room?
- 22 A Very well ventilated.

- 1 Q Very well ventilated? Would you say that
- 2 it's normal for a layperson to be able to smell a gas
- 3 leak?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Why?
- 6 A The odorant is added to the natural gas
- 7 here for hazard.
- 8 O Uh-huh.
- 9 A So, you can detect it. Basically natural
- 10 gas is odorless, you can't smell it. So, we apply
- 11 mercaptan. It's an agent -- odorant that we put in
- the gas so if there's a leak, basically, your
- 13 nose -- a common person can pick it up like a pilot
- 14 going out on a range --
- Q Uh-huh.
- 16 A -- you notice the odor and that's what the
- 17 gas smell is actually. The odorant is what you
- 18 smell --
- 19 O Okay.
- 20 A -- in that -- in that application.
- Q What is a gas shut-off valve?
- 22 A It's a valve that controls the gas flow,

- 1 whether it be on or off.
- Q Okay. If there is a leak at the gas
- 3 shut-off valve, will that affect the meter reading?
- 4 A I'm going to say, no. It's before the
- 5 meter. The meter is the registering instrument. The
- 6 gas is upstream before the meter. It does not pass
- 7 through the meter to be registered.
- 8 Q So, the gas that leaks, it's not registered
- 9 at all?
- 10 A That's correct.
- 11 Q Okay. If gas was to leak after the meter,
- 12 does that register?
- 13 A Yes, it would. It passes through the gas
- 14 meter. All gas that's above -- before the meter --
- 15 O Uh-huh.
- 16 A -- is unregistered because the
- 17 register -- the meter itself is the registering
- instrument and it measures all the gas that goes
- 19 through it on the outlet past it downstream of the
- 20 meter.
- 21 Q Uh-huh. Were you the one that collected
- these documents for this meeting?

- 1 A No, I was not.
- 2 Q Okay. Did you talk to any of the service
- 3 people that went out on the service calls?
- 4 A I did this particular day, yes.
- 5 Q On 12/4/03?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q But you didn't talk to any of the other
- 8 technicians regarding their notes, other than the one
- 9 on 12/24 -- 12/4/03?
- 10 A That's correct. If the repair is made,
- 11 there's no need to contact me. There's no follow-up.
- 12 Q Okay. So, your reading of these notes is
- 13 based upon your perception of what they mean and not
- 14 any discussions you've had with anyone other than the
- 15 service person you talked to on 12/4/03?
- 16 A The service reports, that's correct.
- 17 Q Okay. On page two of the documents in the
- 18 notes, it says repair leak at 3-inch plug valve.
- 19 Whose side of the meter is that on?
- 20 A The plug valve is going to be before the
- 21 meter. There's -- a plug valve is a shut-off valve,
- it controls the gas flow whether it's in the on

- 1 position or the off position. It's a manually
- 2 operated valve that you can turn on or turn off the
- 3 flow of gas -- natural gas through the meter. So, it
- 4 would be, again, before the meter.
- 5 Q Before the meter?
- 6 A Yes.
- 8 3-inch plug valve.
- 9 A That would be a service field employee from
- 10 the gas company.
- 11 Q But wouldn't that be the responsibility of
- 12 the customer to repair --
- 13 A No.
- 14 O -- if it's before the meter?
- A No, it's not.
- 16 Q Can you explain that, please.
- 17 A Well, at one time any piping to the gas
- 18 meter within one foot from the front wall was
- 19 considered gas company responsibility.
- 20 O Uh-huh.
- 21 A That rule has changed from -- you know, at
- this point. But it's the gas company responsibility

- 1 to set the meter, any leaks on the meter or before
- 2 the meters.
- 3 Q So, it's your responsibility to repair
- 4 leaks after the meter; is that -- that's correct?
- 5 A No. Everything upstream of the meter at
- one time would be the gas company responsibility.
- 7 Q Okay.
- 8 A Everything after the meter would be the
- 9 customer's responsibility.
- 10 Q Okay.
- 11 A In this case, the church's responsibility.
- 12 Q So, on 9/28/01, this 3-inch plug valve was
- repaired by Peoples Gas?
- 14 A That's correct.
- Q And it was your responsibility to repair
- 16 it?
- 17 A That's correct.
- 18 Q Okay. Okay. And, again, maybe I've asked
- 19 this before, but this 3-inch plug valve, whatever
- leak it had, you're saying it has no effect on the
- 21 actual reading or usage of the gas?
- 22 A That's correct.

- 1 Q Okay. Let me ask you this question: How
- 2 do -- it seems like gas can be lost without you
- 3 knowing about it?
- 4 A Unfortunately.
- 5 Q And it seems that there's no record or
- 6 accountability of that lost gas?
- 7 A That's correct.
- 8 Q Would you say that if a service person had
- 9 come out to read the meter from time to time, that
- 10 most definitely a service person would have detected
- if gas was being leaked?
- 12 A Yes -- or anyone who passed that area.
- 13 Q Okay. What does it mean when you say the
- 14 valve before the meter was originally red? What does
- 15 that mean?
- 16 A Pardon me?
- 17 Q Okay. Earlier you said that the valve
- 18 before the meter was originally red. What does that
- 19 mean?
- 20 A I don't recall that statement. A gas valve
- 21 is just a simple, again, manual shut-off
- valve -- open and close. There's no reading

- 1 instrument. There's no registration instrument to a
- 2 gas valve. It's -- I'll explain it like a shut-off
- 3 valve behind your gas range.
- 4 O Uh-huh.
- 5 A It's the same principal, just a larger
- 6 valve.
- 7 O What color is it?
- 8 A The colors can change depending on the
- 9 manufacturers. Colors change. And it's -- usually
- we have a 4-inch plug valve that's in (sic)
- 11 circulation at that time and it is red.
- 12 Q Okay. And was that valve ever changed to
- 13 the color gray?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Why?
- 16 A Depending on the valve size or the
- 17 manufacturer. Again, we don't implement -- we don't
- 18 have a color code that we're concerned with as long
- 19 as it's a legal-coded, gas-operating valve.
- 20 Q So, the red and the gray are the same
- 21 size --
- 22 A Exactly.

- 2 A A gray could be a 4-inch also. The valve
- 3 could be -- again, we have no control over the color.
- 4 It's whatever the manufacturer sends, whatever our
- 5 purchasing department decides to go with at the time.
- 6 We have an assortment of red, gray -- depending on
- 7 different size -- pipe size. The 4-inch is
- 8 referring -- excuse me, referring to the diameter of
- 9 the plug valve. So, yes, it could be gray. The one
- 10 in question is red.
- 11 Q Okay.
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: Let's go off the record for a
- 13 second.
- 14 (Discussion off the record.)
- 15 JUDGE DOLAN: Go ahead.
- 16 BY MR. SMITH:
- 17 Q I'm going to show you a document that's
- 18 already in evidence. I'm going to let you look at
- 19 this document for a second. It's a -- it's document
- 20 number one in my list of exhibits.
- Do you recognize that type of document?
- 22 A Yes, I do.

- 1 Q Okay. What is it?
- 2 A This is a formal tag that they're -- that
- 3 we discovered the problem, that we referred the
- 4 customer to an outside agency slash contractor.
- 5 There was a problem that we discovered and it's more
- or less a referral to the owner to have some work
- 7 done --
- Q Uh-huh.
- 9 A -- on an appliance.
- 10 Q Did you turn the gas off?
- 11 A No, we disconnected the appliance.
- 12 Q Okay.
- 13 MR. SMITH: Okay. No further questions.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: Any redirect?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- 16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 17 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 20 this indicate that there was a problem with the
- 21 boiler?
- 22 A Yes.

- 1 Q And based on your experience, what would
- 2 cause the problems with the boiler?
- 3 A High yellow flame, that tells me it's a
- 4 possibility it needs to be cleaned.
- 5 Q And would this have any effect on gas
- 6 consumption?
- 7 A Yes, it very well may.
- 8 Q And would it be Peoples Gas' responsibility
- 9 to make any corrections with this?
- 10 A No, it's not.
- 11 Q And what was the date of this order?
- 12 A Looks like December 4th, 2003.
- 13 Q So, if the boiler was not -- if there were
- 14 problems with the boiler as of December 4th, 2003,
- 15 would it be a correct assumption that there might
- 16 have been problems with the boiler back in October of
- 17 2003?
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 Q And possibly October of 2002?
- 20 A That's correct.
- 21 Q For clarification purposes, I just want to
- 22 make it clear for the record where the actual meter

- 1 is and where the lever is -- or where the valve is in
- 2 relation to that. When you say "upstream" of the
- 3 meter versus "downstream" of the meter -- let's say
- 4 the meter is "B," "C" -- would "C," then, be the
- 5 church's boiler?
- 6 A That's correct.
- 7 Q And "C" would be downstream of the meter?
- 8 A That's correct.
- 9 Q Upstream of the meter, then, "A" would be
- 10 possibly outside piping or piping before the meter?
- 11 A That's correct.
- 12 Q Okay. So, the lever is before the meter?
- 13 A That's correct.
- 14 Q So, any leak of gas before the meter is not
- 15 being read through the meter?
- 16 A It's not being registered.
- 17 Q Right. So --
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 Q So, it would not affect gas consumption?
- 20 A Yes. Correct.
- 21 Q And you said any gas that would be leaking
- 22 from that would be considered lost gas?

- 1 A Unfortunately, yes?
- 2 Q And is a customer charged for lost gas?
- 3 A No, they're not.
- 4 Q And there were no leaks after the meter,
- 5 except for the one leak at the boiler; correct?
- 6 A I believe that was the central heating
- 7 appliance, that's correct.
- 8 Q And that would not be Peoples Gas'
- 9 responsibility?
- 10 A That would be "C," that's correct -- after
- 11 the meter.
- 12 Q Is that mercaptan odorant -- is that the
- 13 same odorant that you use on a stove?
- 14 A Yes, it is.
- 15 Q So, it's -- go ahead.
- 16 A It's actually applied in your pumping
- 17 stations or underground. That -- it's added to the
- 18 gas -- again, natural gas is odorless. We have to
- 19 apply an odorant to it in order to send out a red
- 20 flag so you would smell it. Basically, natural gas
- 21 if it was leaking in, you would have no idea unless
- 22 an odorant was applied to it to send out a red flag

- 1 that there is a gas leak.
- 2 Q And with this odorant applied, then the gas
- 3 is detectable by smell?
- 4 A That's correct.
- 5 Q So, anyone that would be in or near the
- 6 basement, would it be safe to say that they would be
- 7 able to smell a gas leak?
- 8 A If they're in that area by the meter, yes.
- 9 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- 10 JUDGE DOLAN: Any recross?
- 11 MR. SMITH: Just a few minor questions.
- 12 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 13 BY
- 14 MR. SMITH:
- 15 Q Do you have any documents or records that
- 16 basically says that if gas is lost, the customer is
- 17 not billed for it?
- 18 A It's -- it's not apparent that we would
- 19 charge a customer. There's no basis on how to total
- 20 how much gas was used or lost unless we measure it
- 21 through some type of measuring instrument. So, I
- 22 can't answer that. We do not bill customers for gas

- 1 lost in that case, before -- gas leaks before the
- 2 meter -- the meter's initial registering device that
- 3 we use to compile a gas bill.
- 4 Q So, how do you detect that gas is being
- 5 lost? By calls from the customer?
- 6 A Exactly. When you smell gas, you call the
- 7 gas company. We send out a service department person
- 8 to do a leak investigation. At that time, we
- 9 determine where the gas leak is located and whose
- 10 responsibility it is to repair it or secure it. We
- 11 leave it in a safe -- a safe situation. Either we
- 12 discontinue the gas service or shut the gas off to
- 13 eliminate the leak.
- 14 O Okay. You mentioned there was an odorant
- put in the gas so that it can be detected or smelled?
- 16 A That's correct.
- 17 Q So they can detect or smell it?
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 Q Are you aware of any company research that
- 20 says how often the customer detected versus a
- 21 third-party repair person?
- 22 A A third party repair person?

- 1 Q Like a --
- 2 A Excuse me.
- 3 Q -- like a technician?
- 4 A No, not that I'm aware of.
- 5 Q It's just what you've been told?
- 6 A Yeah, basically.
- 7 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- 8 JUDGE DOLAN: Anything else?
- 9 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I'd just like to move to enter
- 10 Group Exhibit 6 and also Group Exhibit 10 into
- 11 evidence.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Why don't we just do all the
- 13 exhibits at the end --
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Okay.
- 15 JUDGE DOLAN: -- because he has to do his. So,
- 16 it would kind of be easier to do it all at the end.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Okay.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Sounds good.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. All right. Sir, you're
- 20 excused, then.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Counsel, if you have your next

- 1 witness.
- 2 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Okay.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Mr. Smith, the reverend can come
- 4 in if he's there because he's a representative of the
- 5 complainant.
- 6 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think he's -- let me see if
- 7 he's -- I think he's gone.
- 8 (Recess taken.)
- 9 JUDGE DOLAN: Sir, would you please identify
- 10 yourself for the record.
- 11 THE WITNESS: My name is Donald Taylor.
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: Just -- would you raise your
- 13 right hand, Mr. Taylor.
- 14 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: Go ahead and proceed, Counsel.
- DONALD TAYLOR,
- 17 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 18 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 19 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 20 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- Q Mr. Taylor, where do you work?

- 1 A I work for Peoples Energy.
- 2 Q And how long have you been employed with
- 3 Peoples Energy?
- 4 A 24 years.
- 5 Q And what is your position there?
- 6 A I am supervisor of meter testing and
- 7 repair.
- 8 Q What does that position -- what are your
- 9 responsibilities as that position?
- 10 A My responsibilities are -- I'm responsible
- 11 for the day-to-day operations involving meter testing
- 12 and repair for Peoples Energy as well as for North
- 13 Shore Gas.
- 14 Q And are you familiar with the equipment
- 15 maintenance records of Peoples Gas?
- 16 A I am.
- 17 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- 18 No. 9 was marked for
- 19 identification as of this
- 20 date.)
- 21 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- Q Okay. I'm handing you what's been marked

- 1 as Respondent's Exhibit 9.
- 2 Do you recognize this document?
- 3 A Yes, I do.
- 4 Q Can you tell me what this document is?
- 5 A This document is a test history record of
- 6 meter number P-1918221.
- 7 Q And was this record made by a person with
- 8 knowledge of or made from information transmitted by
- 9 a person with knowledge of the acts and evidence
- 10 appearing on it?
- 11 A That is correct.
- 13 the events and acts appearing on it?
- 14 A That is correct.
- 15 Q And is it the regular practice of Peoples
- 16 Gas to make such a record?
- 17 A That is correct.
- 18 Q Was the record kept in the course of
- 19 regularly conducted business?
- 20 A Yes, it is.
- 21 Q Could you please tell me the date that this
- test was done on the first page?

- 1 A Okay. It looks like on November the 10th,
- 2 2004, an employee by (sic) Sandra Hoskin who works in
- 3 meter testing repair -- she works for me. She end
- 4 tested a meter, number 1918221.
- 5 Q Okay. So, you're her supervisor?
- 6 A I am her supervisor.
- 7 Q Okay. And can you tell me -- so, at this
- 8 time there was a test of the meter?
- 9 A Meter number 1918221 was end tested on
- 10 11/10/2004 and the test record entails an open load
- 11 and check load test of point two zero, minus point
- 12 three zero. The difference between those two is a
- 13 minus point five zero. That's where you see your
- 14 fast and your slow. And the read quantity is 2474.
- 15 Q And can you tell me what the -- how -- do
- 16 you test the meter to ensure it is working properly?
- 17 A We have equipment that we use that is
- 18 certified every three years from the manufacturer to
- 19 prove meters on.
- 20 MR. SMITH: I'm going to object to the
- 21 relevancy of this document. I mean, there is nothing
- 22 on this document that says that this was a meter

- 1 that's at 4600 South King Drive, that's owned by Mt.
- 2 Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church.
- 3 JUDGE DOLAN: I will sustain that objection
- 4 because he is right about that.
- 5 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Well, I could compare it to
- 6 the bills and it would have the same meter. If you
- 7 just give me a moment.
- 8 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 9 Q Here on the October 25th, 2002 bill --
- 10 MR. SMITH: October 25th, 2002?
- JUDGE DOLAN: No, I'll just look at these ones
- 12 here unless they're different.
- 13 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- Q Could you tell me the meter number on the
- 15 October 25th, 2002 bill?
- 16 A The meter number is meter number P-1918221.
- 17 O And who is the customer of record on this
- 18 bill?
- 19 A Mt. Pisgah Baptist.
- 20 Okay. And is that the same meter number as
- 21 the meter on the equipment maintenance sheet?
- 22 A That is correct.

- 1 Q Now, when you tested this meter on
- 2 11/10/2004, what was (sic) the results of that test?
- 3 MR. SMITH: Relevancy. It's outside the scope
- 4 of time. We're not talking about during that time
- 5 period.
- 6 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: It's relevant to the fact that
- 7 it's the same meter and it was working properly.
- 8 MR. SMITH: A lot could have happened between
- 9 now and then.
- 10 JUDGE DOLAN: Why don't you rephrase your
- 11 question, Counsel, because you asked him about
- 12 testing and he didn't test it himself.
- 13 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 14 O Okay. What does the record show on this
- 15 equipment's maintenance sheet show regarding this
- 16 test of the meter on this date, 11/10/2004?
- 17 A That this particular meter number 1918221
- 18 tested fine within our parameters.
- 19 O What are the ICC parameters for the meter?
- 20 A Plus or minus four percent.
- 21 Q And was this within the range?
- 22 A Well within.

- 1 Q I'm turning to page two. Can you tell me
- 2 the date that this record is -- this equipment
- 3 maintenance form is?
- 4 A This is a test history record of meter
- 5 number 1918221 and the test was performed on
- 6 12/18/2003.
- 7 Q And what was the results according to this
- 8 record?
- 9 A According to this record, your open load
- 10 was a point one zero. The check test was a minus
- 11 point one zero. And the test was point zero zero.
- 12 Q And was this within the ICC requirements?
- 13 A That is correct.
- 14 O So, the meter was working properly?
- 15 A This meter is fine.
- 16 Q And going to page three. Can you explain
- 17 to me the date of this equipment's maintenance form?
- 18 A This is a test history record of meter
- 19 number P-1918221, the test performed on December
- 20 16th, 1997, with test results of minus point four
- 21 zero, point zero zero. The difference is a minus
- 22 point two zero along with the index reading.

- 1 Q And is this within the ICC regulations as
- 2 well?
- 3 A That's correct.
- 4 Q And, so, the meter was working properly at
- 5 this time also?
- 6 A That's correct.
- 7 Q Okay. And is there any indication on this
- 8 form as to why this meter was tested at this time?
- 9 JUDGE DOLAN: Where are you at, Counsel?
- 10 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: On page three, as well.
- 11 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 12 Q On the equipment maintenance form, what
- does it show the date for the installation and
- 14 removal of this meter?
- 15 A The remove date was on December 4th, 1997.
- And it was end tested on December 16th, 1997.
- 17 Q And, so, they removed it and then they
- 18 tested the meter?
- 19 A All meters that are removed out of service
- 20 at Peoples Energy is end tested by meter test and
- 21 repair.
- Q Okay. That's standard?

- 1 A That's standard practice.
- Q Okay. So, we have a record here of -- that
- 3 this meter was tested on four different
- 4 occasions -- the record we just covered?
- 5 A That's correct.
- 6 Q On November 10th, 2004, on December 18th,
- 7 2003 and December 16th, 1997; correct?
- 8 A That is correct.
- 9 Q And on each of those occasions, the meter
- 10 tested well within the ranges of the ICC regulations;
- 11 correct?
- 12 A That is correct.
- 13 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: Cross-examination?
- MR. SMITH: Yeah.
- 16 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 17 BY
- 18 MR. SMITH:
- 19 Q Mr. Taylor, did you prepare these documents
- 20 for this hearing on today?
- 21 A These documents are company records for
- 22 Peoples Energy.

- 1 Q So, did you prepare them?
- 2 A These documents are from our customer
- 3 information system. No, I didn't prepare those.
- 4 Q Okay. Did you talk with each individual
- 5 listed as an employee who went out and tested the
- 6 meter?
- 7 A These records -- these end test records are
- 8 data input entries that are input into the database.
- 9 Q My question is: Did you talk to these
- 10 employees that are listed regarding this information?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Okay. If you look at Exhibit 9, page
- 13 number one --
- 14 A Uh-huh.
- 15 O -- it says the meter was installed 3/3/1998
- and removed 12/5/2003; is that correct?
- 17 A It's install date of 3/3/98 and removed on
- 18 12/5 of '93 -- I'm sorry -- 2003.
- 19 O Is that correct?
- 20 A That's correct.
- 21 Q Do you know why the meter was removed?
- 22 A No. I have no idea.

- 1 Q Would the company have records as to why
- 2 the meter was removed?
- 3 A I'm pretty sure they would.
- 4 Q Did you bring those records?
- 5 A I'm not responsible for those records for
- 6 meter removals. My responsibility is to end test
- 7 meters for Peoples Energy. We don't get involved
- 8 with meter removal records.
- 10 A I -- that's another department.
- 11 Q But that department is not here today;
- 12 right?
- 13 A No. I'm not responsible for those.
- Q Okay. Do you see anywhere on these
- documents where the meter was tested in the year of
- 16 2000?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q The year 2001?
- 19 A No.
- 20 0 2002?
- 21 A No, sir.
- Q And when was it tested in 2003?

- 1 A 12/18/2003.
- 2 Q Towards the end of the year?
- 3 A It was tested -- well, it was removed on
- 4 12/5/2003 and the meter came to the meter shop and
- 5 end tested on 12/18/2003.
- 6 Q So, towards the end of the year; right --
- 7 the last month of the year it was tested?
- 8 A About a week after -- two weeks after
- 9 removal.
- 10 Q Okay. Would you -- should -- strike it.
- 11 Does Peoples Gas have records as
- 12 to -- strike that.
- How often are meters tested?
- 14 A We process approximately a hundred -- I
- would say, 95 thousand meters in meter testing repair
- 16 a year --
- 17 O Uh-huh.
- 18 A -- new as well as repaired.
- 19 Q Okay. Let me rephrase my question. How
- often do you test an (sic) existing customer meters?
- 21 A Depends on the type of meter it is. On a
- 22 diaphragm meter, we have what we call a sample change

- 1 program.
- Q Uh-huh.
- 3 A On a rotary meter, they have -- they test
- 4 meters out in the field or they can request
- 5 from -- customer having a meter requested to be
- 6 removed for testing purposes.
- 7 O Okay.
- 8 A But it's -- it's different -- to have
- 9 meters removed, it can be from different situations.
- 10 Q Okay. So, do you know why the meter was
- 11 tested on 11/10/2004?
- 12 A Why it was tested on 11/10/2004?
- 13 O Yes.
- 14 A I assume that it was removed out of
- 15 service.
- 16 Q But you don't know?
- 17 A Well --
- 18 Q That's your assumption; right?
- 19 A Yes.
- 21 3/5/2004?
- 22 A All meters that are removed out of service,

- 1 that's the protocol that they go through. You start
- 2 an end test. Once it gets end tested -- depending on
- 3 the type of repair that it needs -- it has to have a
- 4 leak test.
- 5 Q So, if I understand this correctly, this
- 6 meter had a leak test on 3/5/2004?
- 7 A That is correct.
- 8 Q And then eight months later, you decided to
- 9 test it again; right?
- 10 A That is correct.
- 11 Q But you don't know why? I'm asking do you
- 12 know why?
- 13 A No, I don't know.
- 14 O Okay. It has leak test 3/5/04, employee
- 15 unknown. Why would the employee be unknown?
- 16 A The operator who performed the leak test
- 17 didn't have an operator number -- or if you look down
- on the end test on 12/16/1997, that's unknown also.
- 19 Q Right. So, in actuality, we don't know who
- 20 performed the test; right?
- 21 A That is correct. That's correct.
- 22 Q Is this record reliable to you?

- 1 A Yes.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection, your Honor. He's
- 3 calling for the witness to make a -- I believe -- an
- 4 improper evidentiary ruling with respect to this
- 5 record. But certainly he can answer if he thinks the
- 6 company's records are reliable or not. But I think
- 7 it's an objectionable question.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Well, he's basing his testimony
- 9 on it. So, I guess he can answer.
- 10 MS. WEATHERSBY: Okay.
- JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to overrule.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: All right.
- 13 BY THE WITNESS:
- 14 A These records are reliable.
- 15 Q If you go to Exhibit No. -- we're still on
- 16 Exhibit No. 9. Go to page two, please. And, again,
- 17 12/16/1997, the employee is unknown; right?
- 18 A That is correct.
- 19 O And there's no reflection of any test
- 20 happening in the year of -- well, all the way from
- 21 1998 until 2002?
- 22 A That is correct. Well -- that is correct.

- 1 Q That's correct? And the test that happened
- 2 in 2003 was towards the end of the year?
- 3 A That is correct.
- 4 Q Okay. If you go to page three of the same
- 5 exhibit, this is a test for 12/16/1997; right?
- 6 A That is correct.
- 8 meter to be tested?
- 9 A It's -- to my knowledge that can be
- 10 requested from the service to a customer service rep.
- 11 Q But ordinarily those tests are done by
- 12 Peoples Gas without a customer's request?
- 13 A Depends --
- 14 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection, your Honor. I feel
- 15 the question is confusing.
- MR. SMITH: I'll restate the question.
- 17 MS. WEATHERSBY: Okay. Great.
- 18 BY MR. SMITH:
- 19 Q Anywhere on these documents that we just
- 20 went over, does it state who requested the test?
- 21 A No. These documents are test history
- 22 records.

- 1 Q Okay. Based upon your professional
- 2 experience and you being a supervisor, is it normal
- 3 for the customer to respect -- to request the testing
- 4 of the meter?
- 5 A Is it normal?
- 6 Q (Nodding.)
- 7 A Not unless there is a billing dispute.
- 8 Q Can the meter be tested simply by a
- 9 technician coming out to read the meter?
- 10 A A differential testing can be done.
- 11 Q By a technician or does it have to be
- 12 specialized in this area?
- 13 A Currently that work was performed by meter
- 14 testing and repair previously. Currently it's done
- 15 by service department technicians.
- 16 Q Okay. Is it possible that the meter
- 17 located at 4600 South King Drive, meter number
- 18 P-1918221, could have needed -- could have needed to
- 19 have been tested in 2001 and was not tested?
- 20 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Objection. Calls for
- 21 speculation.
- MR. SMITH: We've already allowed that type of

- leeway with --
- JUDGE DOLAN: I was going to say -- he can
- 3 answer the question. Go ahead.
- 4 BY THE WITNESS:
- 5 A Would you rephrase that again, please.
- 6 Q Sure. Is it possible that a meter could
- 7 have been needed (sic) to have been tested in 2001
- 8 but wasn't tested?
- 9 A I would not have any knowledge of that.
- 10 Q Who determines when it's tested?
- 11 A (No response.)
- 12 O Who determines when the meter is tested?
- 13 A All out of service meters are to be tested
- 14 by meter testing repair.
- 15 Q What do you mean by "out of service"
- 16 meters?
- 17 A Any meter that is removed from a customer's
- 18 premise for various reasons is tested by meter
- 19 testing repair.
- 20 Q So, you don't test it until it's removed?
- 21 A That's correct -- in my division.
- MR. SMITH: No further questions.

- JUDGE DOLAN: Redirect?
- 2 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- 3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 4 BY
- 5 MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 6 Q Turning to the Group Exhibit 9, can you
- 7 turn to page four. Can you please tell me the date
- 8 of this record?
- 9 A The date of this record is 11/15/2002.
- 10 Q And according to this maintenance sheet,
- 11 what was done on November 15th of 2002?
- 12 A This sheet is an inspection of meter number
- 13 1918221, a rotary inspection report.
- 14 O And what were the results of that
- 15 inspection?
- 16 A Point zero nine.
- 17 O And is that within the ICC limits?
- 18 A That is a differential test of that meter
- 19 and that is perfect.
- Q Okay. And, so, that would be one
- 21 month -- 11/15/2002 is one month after October 25th,
- 22 2002?

- 1 A That is correct.
- 2 Q And the meter was working properly on
- 3 11/15/2002?
- 4 A That is correct.
- 5 Q And can you test a mover -- can you test a
- 6 meter without removing it?
- 7 A Depends on the type. This is a rotary
- 8 meter. This is -- you can do a differential test on
- 9 a rotary meter and that's what this is.
- 10 Q Okay. And a differential test is done at
- 11 the meter?
- 12 A That is correct.
- 13 Q Without removing it?
- 14 A Right. That could be done. We're mandated
- 15 by the Commerce Commission to go out and test rotary
- 16 meters every five years.
- 17 Q Okay. And even after you removed this
- 18 meter and tested it, it -- the test shows that the
- 19 meter was working within the ICC limits; correct?
- 20 A That is correct.
- 21 Q So, before October 25th, 2002, during that
- time and after, all the records show that the meter

- was working within the ICC regulations; correct?
- 2 A That is correct.
- 3 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- 4 JUDGE DOLAN: Any recross?
- 5 MR. SMITH: Just briefly.
- 6 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 7 BY
- 8 MR. SMITH:
- 9 Q Did you bring any documents with you to
- 10 show that the meter was working correctly before
- 11 October 5th, 2002?
- 12 A Yeah. On 12/16/1997, that meter was then
- 13 tested.
- 14 O Okay. On 12/16/1997; right? Okay. Do you
- have anything for the year of 2001?
- 16 A No, I don't see anything.
- 17 Q Do you have anything from the period of
- 18 October 25th, '01 to September 23, '02?
- 19 A Pardon me?
- 20 Q Do you have any documents showing that the
- 21 meter was tested or working fine from the period of
- 22 10/23/01 to 9/23/02?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q How about from the period of 4/25/01 to
- 3 9/25/01?
- 4 A 4/25/01?
- 5 Q Uh-huh.
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Okay. Do you know why the meter was
- 8 inspected on November 15th, 2002?
- 9 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Objection, your Honor. These
- 10 questions are the same questions he asked during his
- 11 initial cross. It's redundant.
- MR. SMITH: This is related to the document
- 13 that she just crossed him on, document number four.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to overrule this.
- THE WITNESS: Do you want to rephrase your
- 16 question again?
- 17 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- 18 BY MR. SMITH:
- the inspection date November 15, 2002?
- 21 A I can make an assumption it was due for
- 22 it's rotary meter inspection.

- 1 Q Okay.
- 2 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Anything else?
- 4 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I just have one question.
- 5 FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 6 BY
- 7 MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 8 Q On November 15, 2002 when the meter was
- 9 tested, the results show that -- do the results show
- 10 that the meter was working properly at that time?
- 11 A That is correct. The differential test
- 12 says passed.
- 13 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Anything else, Counsel?
- 15 (No response.)
- 16 JUDGE DOLAN: All right, sir. You're excused.
- 17 I'm going to take one quick break, okay?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Sure.
- 19 (Recess taken.)
- JUDGE DOLAN: Sir, would you please state your
- 21 name for the record.
- THE WITNESS: Brian Schmoldt, S-c-h-m-o-l-d-t.

- 1 JUDGE DOLAN: Please raise your right hand.
- 2 (Witness sworn.)
- 3 JUDGE DOLAN: All right, Counsel, proceed.
- 4 BRIAN SCHMOLDT,
- 5 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 6 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 8 BY
- 9 MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 10 Q Mr. Schmoldt, where are you employed?
- 11 A Peoples Gas.
- 12 Q And what is your position with Peoples Gas?
- 13 A I'm a billing specialist.
- 14 Q How long have you been working for Peoples
- 15 Gas as a billing specialist?
- 16 A Six years.
- 17 Q And what are your responsibilities as a
- 18 billing specialist?
- 19 A To review bills and any complaints with the
- 20 Illinois Commerce Commission.
- 21 Q Is it within your responsibility to conduct
- 22 re-billing of customer's accounts?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q And is it your responsibility to explain
- 3 those re-billings to Peoples Gas' customers?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And does that job involve the maintenance
- of company records in a computer system?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Have you reviewed the records in this
- 9 matter -- in the Mt. Pisgah matter?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- No. 1 was marked for
- 13 identification as of this
- 14 date.)
- 15 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 16 Q I'm handing you what's been marked
- 17 previously as Respondent's Exhibit 1.
- Do you recognize this document?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q And can you tell me what this document is?
- 21 A It's a transcript of the account at
- 22 Mt. Pisgah.

- 1 Q Is this document based upon Peoples Gas'
- 2 records of Mt. Pisgah?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Were those records made by a person with
- 5 knowledge of or made from information transmitted by
- 6 a person with knowledge of the acts and events
- 7 appearing on it?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 O And were those made at the time of
- 10 the -- was this record made at the time the acts or
- 11 events -- was the record -- let me rephrase it.
- 12 Was -- were the documents that you used
- 13 to create this record recorded at the time of the
- 14 acts appearing on them?
- MR. SMITH: I'm going to object to this
- 16 document. It was not provided seven days before the
- 17 hearing. The document that was provided is a
- document with the date of February 12th, '04. This
- 19 has November 12th, '04.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: It's the same document. I
- 21 just reprinted it on that date. It should be the
- 22 same.

- 1 MR. SMITH: No, it's not.
- 2 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Can I see --
- 3 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- 4 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: -- the version that you have.
- 5 You're looking at the second page. There's -- you
- 6 have a longer version --
- 7 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- 8 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: -- which has now been put into
- 9 two pages to get it to fit.
- 10 MR. SMITH: Is the date the same,
- 11 November 12, '04?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: This says February 12th, '04.
- MR. SMITH: Right.
- 14 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: However, if you look at it --
- MR. SMITH: The dates are different.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No. You were looking at the
- 17 first dates.
- MR. SMITH: Am I?
- 19 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: The dates are the same and
- 20 it's been added to at the bottom with more -- the
- 21 current.
- MR. SMITH: So, it's not the same document.

- 1 MS. WEATHERSBY: Does it bring it down to the
- 2 current date?
- 3 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: This is 5/28/04. And this
- 4 adds -- it adds on to it 6/29, 7/28, but we
- 5 could -- I mean, we don't need those.
- 6 MS. WEATHERSBY: Your Honor, I need to have
- 7 just one moment to see how these documents differ and
- 8 then perhaps we could have a stipulation as to what
- 9 is different here because I think it's just been
- 10 brought down to the current date.
- JUDGE DOLAN: All right. We'll go off the
- 12 record for a second.
- 13 (Discussion off the record.)
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: A discussion took place off the
- 15 record concerning transcripts of the bill. It was
- 16 found that the document counsel had presented was
- 17 just an updated version. The parties have agreed to
- 18 use the document that was dated -- what was it --
- 19 February --
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: February 12, 2004.
- JUDGE DOLAN: February 12th, 2004. Go ahead
- 22 and proceed, Counsel.

- 1 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 2 Q Can you please tell me what the headings on
- 3 this document represent?
- 4 A The heading is -- it's a transcript for
- 5 Mt. Pisgah, if that's what you're talking about.
- 6 Q And -- okay. When it says reading dates
- 7 from to, can you explain to me what that means?
- 8 A Reading dates mean dates that the bill
- 9 covers. So, from August 22nd, 2002 to September
- 10 23rd, 2002, it's a 30 -- 32 day period. So, that's
- 11 the time period of the bill.
- 12 Q Okay. And the reading type, could you tell
- me what that means?
- 14 A Reading type EST means it was an estimated
- 15 read at that time.
- 16 O And --
- 17 A And next to it is what the estimating was
- 18 at that time.
- 19 Q Okay. And what does ACT mean?
- 20 A ACT means actual company reading.
- 21 Q Okay. And then the heading that says meter
- 22 reading different?

- 1 A Meter reading difference is the amount of
- 2 gas that would be the difference between the previous
- 3 reading to the current reading.
- 4 Q Okay. And then does the -- this document
- 5 show the bills -- the amount of the bill?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q And what heading is that under?
- 8 A That would be under net bill.
- 9 Q Okay. And then -- then there's headings
- 10 for late charge deposit, previous balance --
- 11 A Right. Credits, total amount due, any
- 12 payments and then what the account balance was at the
- 13 time of the bill.
- 14 Q Okay. Reading across line two, can you
- please tell me what that shows?
- 16 A On line two it's showing that from
- 17 October -- say October 25, 2001 to October 2nd, 2002,
- 18 he received an adjusted bill at that time. We read
- 19 the meter on October 2nd and the reading was 27374.
- 20 O And --
- 21 A Actually it wasn't -- it didn't
- really -- the bill didn't really end at October 2nd,

- 1 2002. It actually ended October 23rd, 2002. But
- 2 since October 2nd isn't the normal billing time for
- 3 this particular account, the difference between the
- 4 October 2nd and October 23rd, that value would be
- 5 estimated because we didn't read it on the exact
- 6 billing date that was due.
- 7 O Okay. And why?
- 8 MR. SMITH: I'm going to object to any remarks
- 9 for line numbers 4 through 23 because that is outside
- 10 of the scope of the bills that are in question. The
- 11 last bill that was in question was from 10/23/01 to
- 12 9/23/02.
- 13 MS. WEATHERSBY: We have no problem with that,
- 14 but Counsel, we have allowed you to put in all kind
- 15 of bills rolling forward dates and information and
- 16 the bills from the previous period. So, in order for
- 17 him to explain the record, it's going to be important
- 18 to show what the billing period was before actual
- 19 versus estimate. And adjusted bills are based upon a
- 20 prior period. And the rules allow for that. And,
- 21 so, without that testimony, we can't put on our case.
- 22 And the record will show, if we review, your witness

- 1 must have testified to about 15 records prior to the
- 2 period in time. And only after I said this is going
- 3 on and on, did I stipulate and agree it was okay for
- 4 us to allow that information to come in. So, we are
- 5 simply rebutting and allowing information for that
- 6 same period.
- 7 JUDGE DOLAN: I'm going to overrule the
- 8 objection. Go ahead.
- 9 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 10 Q So, on October -- or October 10th, 2002,
- 11 there was an actual read that was taken?
- 12 A Correct.
- 13 O And that was in between the time of an
- 14 actual billing period?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q And why might a meter reading be taken
- 17 between those times?
- 18 A Well, we -- it's because we hadn't read the
- 19 meter in a while and the customer was asking for a
- 20 meter reading, so we read the meter. And since it
- 21 was prior to the normal billing time, we can't bill
- 22 the customer out of time, basically. It would not be

- 1 his billing time because then he would have received
- 2 two bills in the same period saying, hey, you owe a
- 3 bill for this period and now you owe another bill two
- 4 week later. The customer then would have been really
- 5 questioning why he's getting two bills in the same
- 6 month.
- 7 Q Okay. So, October 2nd, 2002, you took an
- 8 actual read; correct?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q And when was the last actual read you took
- 11 before that time?
- 12 A October 25th, 2001.
- 13 Q And, so, in between that time period, then,
- 14 how did you bill the customer? How did you calculate
- gas usage to bill the customer?
- 16 A The customer is re-billed based on
- 17 degree-day analysis. So, the system automatically,
- 18 like, re-bills the account. And since he was being
- 19 undercharged, he's given a make-up bill for the
- 20 difference, which came to \$6,696.33.
- 21 Q And why would the customer have been
- 22 undercharged during that time period?

- 1 A Because we were estimating the bills too
- 2 low.
- 3 Q And an actual -- how would an actual read
- 4 show you that?
- 5 A Well, when we read the meters, the
- 6 difference between the actual read and the estimated
- 7 read and the difference between line one and two is
- 8 roughly 9,000 feet of gas.
- 9 Q So, the adjusted bill, then, is based on
- 10 two actual reads; correct?
- 11 A Correct.
- 12 Q And is it customary for Peoples Gas to make
- 13 adjustments when gas usage is underestimated?
- 14 A Yes.
- Q Are there any other documents that you used
- in compiling this transcript that might be helpful to
- 17 show Mt. Pisgah's gas usage history?
- 18 A Meter readings.
- 19 Q Okay. Turning to Respondent's Group
- 20 Exhibit 7.
- 21 Do you recognize this document?
- 22 A Yes.

- 1 Q Can you tell me what this document is?
- 2 A It's a history of the meter reading at the
- 3 premise at Mt. Pisgah.
- 4 Q And was this made by a person with
- 5 knowledge of the acts appearing on it?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 O And was it made at or near the time of the
- 8 acts appearing on it?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Is it the regular practice of Peoples Gas
- 11 to make such a record?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And is it kept in the course of regularly
- 14 conducted business?
- 15 A Yes.
- Q Can you please go to the line with the date
- 17 October 25th, 2001. Okay. On October 25th, 2001,
- 18 what kind of reading was taken of the meter?
- 19 A A company reading.
- 20 O And was that an actual or an estimate?
- 21 A Actual.
- Q And what was the meter reading?

- 1 A 74680.
- Q Okay. And can you go to the next actual
- 3 read, please.
- 4 A Forward or backwards?
- 5 Q Forward.
- 6 A The next actual read was October 2nd, 2002.
- 7 O And what was the read on that date?
- 8 A 27374.
- 9 Q And that's the date the adjusted bill was
- 10 based on; correct?
- 11 A Right. Correct. Yes.
- 12 Q Why might Peoples Gas take estimates for
- 13 that whole time period without having actual reads
- 14 between October 2ndth -- October 25th, 2001, October
- 15 2nd, 2002?
- 16 A Service person -- when he went out didn't
- 17 get a response. I don't really -- I can't say for a
- 18 hundred percent because I'm not the person who's
- 19 reading the meter. But if they didn't get a response
- or maybe the person was scheduled to go out there,
- 21 called in sick, said they didn't read the meter in
- 22 that area.

- 1 Q Are you aware of any attempts that Peoples
- 2 Gas made to access the meter to take an actual read
- 3 during that time period?
- A I know there were some attempts, yes.
- 5 Q Okay.
- 6 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- 7 No. 8 was marked for
- 8 identification as of this
- 9 date.)
- 10 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 11 Q Showing to you what's marked as
- 12 Respondent's Group Exhibit 8, do you recognize this
- 13 document?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 O And can you tell me what this document is?
- 16 A It's the meter reading history for the
- 17 person who reads the meter of that area.
- 18 Q And was this record made by a person with
- 19 knowledge of the acts appearing on it?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And was it made at or near the time of the
- 22 events on it?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Is it the regular practice of Peoples Gas
- 3 to make such a record?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And is it kept in the course of regularly
- 6 conducted business?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Can you please describe to me -- on the top
- 9 of page one about one, two, three, four lines down,
- 10 can you tell me what this says?
- 11 A Well, the -- the number above the
- 12 highlighted number is the account number for
- 13 Mt. Pisgah. And then, obviously, to the right of
- 14 that is where it's shown -- that's the meter reading
- 15 for Mt. Pisqah Baptist Church. And the information
- 16 below that, I'm not a hundred percent sure what the
- 17 5200 is. I don't know if that's the service guy's
- 18 number that went out there. I'm not a hundred
- 19 percent sure on that. And then next to that is the
- 20 reason -- what happened when he went out there. It
- 21 says he couldn't get in to read the meter --
- 22 Q Okay.

- 1 A -- at that time. He made an attempt to
- 2 read the meter but nobody was there.
- 3 Q And what does this note specifically say?
- A Can't, no -- no condition, no one home.
- 5 Q Okay. And this -- what date did they try
- 6 to read the meter?
- 7 A December 31st, 2001.
- 8 Q So, this is after October 25th, 2001;
- 9 correct?
- 10 A Correct.
- 11 Q And turning to page two, what's -- what is
- 12 the date of this attempt to read the meter?
- 13 A February 28th, 2002.
- 14 Q Okay. And can you tell me what the notes
- indicate here for Mt. Pisgah Missionary?
- 16 A This one's saying, can't -- it looks like
- 17 it's saying the place was closed at the time they
- 18 made an attempt to read the meter.
- 19 Q And they did not get a read at that time
- 20 either?
- 21 A No, no reading at that time.
- Q Okay. And then again on page three, what

- 1 is the date of this attempt?
- 2 A April 29th, 2002.
- 3 Q Okay. And was Mt. Pisgah able -- or was
- 4 the Peoples Gas employee able to read the meter at
- 5 Mt. Pisgah at this time?
- A No, just saying can't, no condition, not
- 7 home.
- 8 Q But this would indicate that they made an
- 9 attempt to read it; correct?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- No. 2 was marked for
- 13 identification as of this
- 14 date.)
- 15 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 16 Q Now, I'd like to hand you what's been
- 17 marked as Respondent's Exhibit 2.
- 18 And do you -- do you recognize this
- 19 document?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And what is this document?
- 22 A A copy of a bill.

- 1 Q And was this record made by a person with
- 2 knowledge of the events appear on it?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Was it made at or near the time of the
- 5 events on it?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q And is it the regular practice of Peoples
- 8 Gas to make such a record?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Was that record kept in the course of
- 11 regularly conducted business?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 O What is the date on this bill?
- 14 A The bill date is October 25th, 2002.
- Q And can you explain to me what the charges
- 16 are -- reflect on the bill?
- 17 A The charges -- the first part, the summary
- of charges, shows what the previous balance was, any
- 19 payments made and then it shows that a portion of the
- 20 bill was canceled. And then the same portion of the
- 21 bill was revised or re-billed.
- MR. SMITH: For the record, I need to make a

- 1 late objection to note it for the record. I'm going
- 2 to ask that any testimony regarding Group Exhibit 8
- 3 be stricken. That document was not provided within
- 4 seven days and it's extremely prejudicial to my
- 5 client because if it had been provided, I'd have had
- 6 someone here to rebut this information.
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: Your Honor, I wish I had
- 8 brought the entire file that's back at the office,
- 9 but it's really difficult for me to examine what
- 10 possibly has transpired with, you know, all the
- 11 changes in the case. However, we did allow testimony
- 12 from counsel's witnesses as to who was present,
- 13 access and so forth. And this is merely our case
- 14 with respect to that same issue. So, to the extent
- 15 the documents are stricken, I think that Mr. Schmoldt
- 16 can still speak to attempts that his review of the
- 17 records show because he's prepared a summary that
- 18 showed, you know, estimated readings and no access
- 19 and so forth and so on.
- 20 So, we're in a really difficult position
- 21 herein that his witness has testified that I was
- there and so forth and so on regarding access issues.

- 1 And we're merely putting on testimony regarding our
- 2 attempted access.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Well, Counsel, the problem is
- 4 that Cynthia Cicero isn't here to testify that she
- 5 actually did it. Their clients were here to testify
- 6 that they were present --
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: Your Honor, I understand, but
- 8 they also said they had 22 officers and there were
- 9 numerous employees. And it was unclear who was
- 10 present when. If you recall, the minister as
- 11 well -- he said, I have 22 officers -- 22 deacons,
- 12 someone's there, I'm not sure. So, it's been unclear
- 13 who would have been present at different times. So,
- 14 I don't know that the church secretary would have
- 15 been the definitive person. Had we known there were
- 16 22 possible persons who were controlling access,
- 17 maybe I would have sent a broad-based subpoena
- 18 because we are penalized as well. So, I think
- 19 that --
- 20 JUDGE DOLAN: Well, what's this document
- 21 considered as far as your list of exhibits?
- 22 What's --

- 1 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: It's one of our computer --
- MS. WEATHERSBY: It's a business record.
- 3 JUDGE DOLAN: But your list of exhibits -- ICC
- 4 complaint, transcript, read detail sheet, duplicate
- 5 bills, payment record, See First Company business
- 6 records --
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: See First Company business
- 8 records. Everything in our system is See First
- 9 business records.
- 10 MR. SMITH: What letter are you looking at,
- 11 your Honor, if you don't mind?
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: The one from November 12th that
- 13 lists the witnesses and exhibits that you've been
- 14 going off of.
- 15 MR. SMITH: I have not received anything since
- 16 August the 2nd, 2004. As a matter of fact, I spoke
- 17 with counsel in December and you said that you were
- 18 going to bring whatever documents you had for me to
- 19 the hearing.
- 20 MS. WEATHERSBY: -- to the hearing --
- 21 MR. SMITH: Right.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: And you said that would be no

- 1 problem, but I -- did that letter not go to
- 2 Mr. Smith and we cc'd the referee?
- 3 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes, it did.
- 4 MS. WEATHERSBY: I feel as though --
- 5 MR. HOCHHAUSEN: But the referee got the
- 6 copies, so...
- 7 JUDGE DOLAN: I didn't get any exhibits. I
- 8 just got the copy of letter.
- 9 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: We didn't mail exhibits at the
- 10 time because we had spoke with him on the phone and
- 11 he said that that would be fine if we brought the
- 12 exhibits to the hearing rather than give them to him
- 13 prior.
- 14 MS. WEATHERSBY: That's correct. And at that
- 15 time, I think the hearing was anticipated to be the
- 16 very next week and then -- I can't really say what
- 17 happened.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I think that's why we never
- 19 gave him additional ones because -- since he had
- 20 agreed to it originally.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: And, Counsel, for the record,
- 22 did you not agree to that?

- 1 MR. SMITH: I'd like to note my objection for
- 2 the record. If you overrule it, that's fine; but --
- JUDGE DOLAN: You know, for what this record's
- 4 worth, I'm going to overrule the objection and
- 5 just -- let's move on.
- 6 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 7 Q Okay. Respondents's Group Exhibit 2, back
- 8 to the bill dated October 25th, 2002. You were
- 9 explaining the summary charges, I think, at the time?
- 10 A Yes. Okay. It shows that we canceled
- 11 prior billing between October 25th, 2001 to September
- 12 23rd, 2002. That billing totalled \$21,874.78. We
- 13 revised the bill for the same time period,
- 14 October 25th, 2001 to September 23rd, 2002 for
- 15 \$27,587,85, which leaves a balance of \$5,713.07.
- 16 Q So, that \$5,713.07, is that the difference
- 17 between the amount that was under billed and the
- 18 amount that was the actual read taken?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 O So -- and at the time -- or what was this
- 21 re-billing based on?
- 22 A The October 2nd meter reading.

- 1 O And that was an actual read?
- 2 A Correct. Yes.
- 3 Q Can you explain, then, why the bill here
- 4 says "current estimate October 23rd"?
- 5 A Well, the customer is normally billed
- 6 around the 23rd of each month. So, to bill them on
- 7 the 2nd and then bill them again on the 23rd, would
- 8 be a double bill in a month. We couldn't do that.
- 9 So, October 2nd is not their normal billing time.
- 10 So, the next billing date was October 23rd, which was
- 11 basically 21 days later. That's when we billed the
- 12 account.
- 13 Q Okay. But the bill -- the read on
- 14 October 2nd was an actual read not an estimate;
- 15 correct?
- 16 A Correct.
- 17 Q And that's what the adjusted bill was based
- 18 on?
- 19 A Correct.
- 20 Q And was this explained to the customer?

21

22

- 1 A As far as I know, yes.
- 2 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- No. 16 was marked for
- 4 identification as of this
- 5 date.)
- 6 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 7 O I'd like to hand you what's been marked as
- 8 Respondent's Exhibit 16.
- 9 Do you recognize this document?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Can you please tell me what this document
- 12 is?
- 13 A In this case it's -- it's called a comments
- 14 detail, which -- when a customer calls the customer
- 15 service line, if a customer is given, like, an
- 16 explanation of a bill or wants something notated on
- 17 the account, the person or persons they talk to will
- 18 make a note on the account what was said to them or
- 19 what needs to be placed on the record.
- 20 Q And can you tell me what this document
- 21 states?
- 22 A This document states that Reverend Jackson

- 1 requested for a supervisor callback. This particular
- 2 person, Mr. Johnson, explained to cust (sic) that
- 3 adjustments are due to underestimated bills,
- 4 suggested to cust to take reading and phone it in and
- 5 cust refused, required to speak with a supervisor and
- that was done on October 29th, 2002.
- 7 Q So, this record -- this company record
- 8 indicates that the adjustments were explained to the
- 9 reverend; correct?
- 10 A Correct.
- 11 Q And did Peoples Gas ever attempt to put the
- 12 customer on a payment plan regarding the adjusted
- 13 bill?
- 14 A It would have been offered, yes.
- Q Okay.
- 16 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- 17 No. 17 was marked for
- 18 identification as of this
- 19 date.)
- 20 BY MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 21 Q Turning to Group Exhibit 17, do you
- 22 recognize this document?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q And could you please tell me what this
- 3 document reflects?
- 4 A This document reflects, basically, what's
- 5 called a work queue, which is a dispute that's put on
- 6 the account regarding the bill -- customer went to
- 7 Illinois Commerce Commission, basically at that time
- 8 disputing the bill or wanting an explanation of the
- 9 bill.
- 10 Q All right. And what did the Peoples Gas
- 11 employee who made this record input in his comment?
- 12 A That we spoke with the customer. Whether
- 13 it was the secretary, Mr. -- Reverend Jackson, I
- 14 don't know. We don't -- I don't recall who we talked
- 15 to -- that the billing was correct. Customer was
- offered a payment plan for 12 months with no late
- 17 charges added to that payment plan.
- 18 Q So, a payment plan was offered to Mt.
- 19 Pisqah at this time?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And did the customer accept the offer?
- 22 A I don't believe they did at that time. I

- 1 can't -- I don't remember a hundred percent for sure.
- 2 Q Turning to page two of this document, can
- 3 you tell me what this record indicates?
- 4 A note that was put on the account by Curt
- 5 Thomas regarding the bill. It says, I called three
- 6 times, never in. It says, called Reverend three
- 7 times, never had -- was offered no LPC on bill and
- 8 no -- and no LPC STA, but secretary said would call
- 9 back. Offered same. If call, associate note from
- 10 Ms. Davis on 11/7 regarding same.
- 11 O Do you know what LPC is?
- 12 A Late payment charges.
- 13 Q Okay. So, they offered no late payment
- 14 charges to the secretary?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q So, the person who -- Curt Thomas, who made
- 17 this record, spoke with the secretary; correct?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 O And it shows that he called the Reverend at
- 20 least three times?
- 21 A Correct.
- Q And the Reverend was not available on any

- 1 of those occasions?
- 2 A Correct.
- 3 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- 4 JUDGE DOLAN: Cross-examination?
- 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 6 BY
- 7 MR. SMITH:
- 8 Q What is your policy on meter reading? If a
- 9 customer requests that a meter be read, what's the
- 10 policy?
- 11 A If a customer requests the meter be read,
- 12 we try to accommodate the customer and read the
- meter.
- Q Do you read it, like, immediately or within
- 15 the next billing cycle? How does that usually work?
- 16 A We try to schedule a date when we can read
- 17 the meter.
- 18 Q Okay.
- 19 MR. SMITH: I'm going to show counsel a
- 20 document that was provided to me by your office
- 21 pursuant to a discovery request. I'm just going to
- 22 mark it as --

- 1 MS. WEATHERSBY: Have we provided this document
- 2 to you and then you indicated you'd be using this as
- 3 one of your exhibits -- just to use your own argument
- 4 that you used ten minutes ago --
- 5 MR. SMITH: You're not prejudiced. It's your
- 6 document.
- 7 MS. WEATHERSBY: I just want to make sure that
- 8 you indicated you'd be using this, whether in
- 9 rebuttal or whatever. We haven't offered it into
- 10 evidence and we haven't presented it as a part of our
- 11 record, but I have no objection. I'm sure. I'll see
- 12 what it is.
- 13 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Okay. I'm going to --
- 14 just for -- I'm going to label this document as --
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Maybe, Counsel, you can let us
- 16 know what the question was --
- 17 MR. SMITH: Sure.
- 18 MS. WEATHERSBY: -- and what his response was.
- 19 MR. SMITH: Let me just ask the question, maybe
- 20 that might be easier.
- 21 BY MR. SMITH:
- Q Is it company's policy to read the meter

- 1 upon the customer's request?
- 2 A Yeah. If the customer requests a meter
- 3 reading, we would somehow set up something, you know,
- 4 to try to arrange a date or something to read the
- 5 meter.
- 6 Q Okay. This Group Exhibit 8, Cynthia
- 7 Cicero, these are her notes. Did you talk with her
- 8 regarding these attempts?
- 9 A Well, these aren't actually her notes.
- 10 Q Okay.
- 11 A These are documents that are in the
- 12 computer system that she pulled for us.
- 13 Q Okay.
- 14 A These are See First notes. The service
- 15 person who made the attempts to read the meter, these
- 16 are his notes.
- 17 Q Is that person listed on here?
- 18 A Yeah, 5200 might be the service person's
- 19 number --
- 20 Q Okay.
- 21 A -- that attempted that. It doesn't name
- 22 them by name. It just goes by number.

- 1 Q So, let's assume that 5200 is the person
- 2 that actually does this. Can we assume that?
- 3 A Yeah, we'll assume that.
- 4 Q On page one, how many times was this person
- 5 successful in getting inside to read the meter?
- 6 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. I don't think that
- 7 record -- first of all, it's only relevant with
- 8 respect to Mt. Pisgah. Secondly, I don't think it
- 9 goes to their entire day in work queue. So,
- 10 objection. Relevance.
- 11 MR. SMITH: I mean, is --
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Only line four of this
- document refers to Mt. Pisgah. This is their whole
- 14 day's --
- MR. SMITH: This is this person's whole days;
- 16 (sic) right?
- 17 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- 18 MR. SMITH: Right.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Well, not -- this is just a
- 20 portion of his whole day.
- 21 BY MR. SMITH:
- Q Well, this portion of his whole day --

- 1 A Right.
- 2 Q Let me rephrase my question. This portion
- 3 of his whole day, how many times was he successful in
- 4 reading the meter?
- 5 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection. Relevance. Once
- 6 again it's beyond the scope. In terms of that
- 7 employee's productivity, it goes to access at
- 8 Mt. Pisgah and how many times they -- the company
- 9 tried to get to Mt. Pisgah, not that employee because
- we don't have a complete record of that employee's
- 11 productivity for it -- for that day. So, objection.
- 12 Relevance to the extent it's for that employee.
- 13 JUDGE DOLAN: I'll sustain it.
- 14 BY MR. SMITH:
- Q Did you talk to the employee that went out
- 16 to try to read the meter on this page one, dated
- 17 December 31, '01?
- MS. WEATHERSBY: No.
- 19 BY THE WITNESS:
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q Do you know what part of the building the
- 22 person went to?

- 1 A No.
- 3 there?
- 4 A No. I don't think there's a time listed on
- 5 what time he went there exactly --
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A -- there might -- it might be in another
- 8 part of the document that she didn't print.
- 9 Q Okay. Let's go to page two. Did you talk
- 10 to this employee?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Do you know what time the person went
- 13 there?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Do you know what entrance the person tried
- 16 to get in through?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Page three, same answers?
- 19 A Same answers.
- Q Okay. If you look at Exhibit 16, please,
- 21 the box that says remarks --
- 22 A Uh-huh.

- 2 are typed in by the employee?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q So, that's the employee's version of what
- 5 happened?
- 6 A Correct.
- 7 O Okay.
- 8 MS. WEATHERSBY: Objection to the
- 9 characterization of version. I mean, it seems
- 10 like --
- 11 MR. SMITH: I'll strike it.
- 12 MS. WEATHERSBY: -- the word version can be
- 13 distorted. That's the entry that was made at the
- 14 time, but version --
- 15 BY MR. SMITH:
- 16 Q That's the employee's explanation of what
- 17 happened?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Okay. Do you know whether or not this
- 20 phone call was monitored by a third party at Peoples
- 21 Gas request?
- 22 A All phone calls are monitored actually.

- 1 Whether that one particularly was monitored at that
- 2 time, I could not tell you.
- 3 O Okay. Look at Exhibit 17. In the
- 4 comments, again, this is the employee's explanation
- 5 of the conversation?
- 6 A Right.
- 7 Q Okay. And, again, do you know whether or
- 8 not this was monitored by a third employee -- a
- 9 third-party person of Peoples Gas and verified?
- 10 A Well, I can tell you it wasn't monitored.
- 11 Q Okay.
- MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- 13 JUDGE DOLAN: Redirect?
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- 15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 16 BY
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN:
- 18 Q Approximately how many residential
- 19 customers does Peoples Gas have?
- 20 A 800,000 maybe, a large amount.
- 21 Q So, would a Peoples Gas employee have any
- reason to modify the records in any way?

- 1 A No.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Any recross?
- 4 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 5 BY
- 6 MR. SMITH:
- 8 personnel would give a version that makes that person
- 9 look bad?
- 10 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Objection. Speculation.
- 11 MR. SMITH: Same question you asked, just
- 12 different format.
- 13 JUDGE DOLAN: It is. Overruled.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Say that again.
- MR. SMITH: I knew you would going to say that.
- 16 BY MR. SMITH:
- 18 Peoples Gas employee, whose job it is to input his or
- 19 her conversation, would give a version of the
- 20 explanation that puts him or her in a bad light?
- 21 A I can't really -- I honestly can't answer
- 22 that because -- I mean, everybody puts in what they

- 1 think is the way a conversation went, whether it's
- 2 god or bad.
- 3 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 5 MR. SMITH: No further questions.
- 6 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay.
- 7 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: No further questions.
- 8 JUDGE DOLAN: All right. Thank you, sir.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 10 MS. WEATHERSBY: Thank you.
- JUDGE DOLAN: All right. We're ready to
- 12 present exhibits, then?
- 13 MR. SMITH: Can I take 30 seconds to make that
- 14 child care phone call?
- 15 JUDGE DOLAN: Sure. We'll go off the record.
- 16 (Recess taken.)
- 17 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. We're going to be
- 18 presenting exhibits at this time. Counsel?
- MR. SMITH: Your Honor, we're going to present
- 20 Complainant Group Exhibit 1 through 62. It's a total
- of 62 pages and it's numbered pages 1 through 62 into
- 22 evidence, your Honor.

- JUDGE DOLAN: Group exhibit?
- 2 MR. SMITH: Yes.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. One through 62?
- 4 MR. SMITH: Yes.
- 5 JUDGE DOLAN: Any objection, Counsel?
- 6 MS. WEATHERSBY: One second. The only
- 7 objection is it should be noted that any handwritten
- 8 records that amends Peoples Gas' bills and records
- 9 was not to be considered.
- 10 JUDGE DOLAN: With that stipulation -- or with
- 11 that qualification, Group Exhibit --
- MR. SMITH: If I may, there were some comments
- 13 that she made to the handwritten that were her
- 14 actual -- that were her actual notes that -- comments
- 15 that she made calling Peoples Gas. So, those should
- 16 be allowed because she testified regarding those --
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Only those comments. It was
- 18 about three or one sheet. I mean, you don't have to
- 19 go back through the record. I can tell you which one
- 20 it was.
- 21 MR. SMITH: I mean, whatever is reflected in
- the record.

- 1 MS. WEATHERSBY: Right, whatever is reflected
- 2 in the record.
- 3 JUDGE DOLAN: That's fine. Subject to that
- 4 objection --
- 5 MS. WEATHERSBY: Sure. Yes.
- 6 JUDGE DOLAN: -- Group Exhibits 1 through 62
- 7 will be admitted into evidence.
- 8 (Whereupon, Complainant's
- 9 Exhibit Nos. 1 through 62 were
- 10 admitted into evidence as of
- 11 this date.)
- 12 JUDGE DOLAN: Complainant rests?
- 13 MR. SMITH: Complainant rests.
- 14 JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. Counsel?
- 15 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: I'd like to admit into
- 16 evidence Respondent's Exhibit 1, Respondent's
- 17 Exhibit 2, Respondent's Exhibit -- Group Exhibit 6,
- 18 Group Exhibit 7, Group Exhibit 8, Exhibit 9,
- 19 Exhibit 10, Respondent's Exhibit 16 and 17.
- 20 MS. WEATHERSBY: Make sure that opposing
- 21 counsel has all those same sheets.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yep.

- 1 JUDGE DOLAN: All right. You've got
- 2 Respondent's Exhibit 1, Respondent's Exhibit 2,
- 3 Respondent's Group Exhibit 6, Respondent's Group
- 4 Exhibit 7, Respondent's Group Exhibit 8, Exhibit 9,
- 5 Respondent's Exhibit 10, Respondent's Exhibit 16 and
- 6 Respondent's Exhibit 17?
- 7 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: That's correct.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Any objection, Counsel?
- 9 MR. SMITH: No objection. I'm just going to
- 10 note that I have the same order. No objection.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. Respondent's Exhibit 1, 2,
- 12 Group Exhibit 6, Group Exhibit 7, Group Exhibit 8,
- 13 Exhibit 9, Exhibit 10, Exhibit 16 and Exhibit 17 will
- 14 be admitted into evidence.
- 15 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- Nos. 1, 2, 9, 10, 16, 17 and
- Group Exhibits 6, 7 and 8 were
- 18 admitted into evidence as of
- 19 this date.)
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Thank you.
- 21 JUDGE DOLAN: All right. With that,
- 22 Respondents rest?

- 1 MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Yes.
- JUDGE DOLAN: Okay. I would like a brief from
- 3 each of you, basically stating the parties' positions
- 4 and what findings you feel should take place. And
- 5 I'd like that within two weeks, by January 27th,
- 6 2005. And then I will give the parties an
- 7 opportunity to file a reply brief within seven days
- 8 of that or by Thursday, February 3rd, 2005.
- 9 Any problems with that?
- 10 MS. WEATHERSBY: 1/27/05 and reply 2/3/05?
- 11 JUDGE DOLAN: Correct.
- 12 MR. SMITH: Okay.
- JUDGE DOLAN: With that, this matter is marked
- 14 heard and taken.
- MS. HOCHHAUSEN: Thank you.
- MS. WEATHERSBY: Thank you.
- 17 HEARD AND TAKEN

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